

First Baptist Church

OF BRIDGEPORT

R.B. OUELLETTE, PASTOR; SCOTT COWLING, AARON WILSON, J.D. HOWELL: ASSISTANTS

January 13, 2007

Dr. Jack Schaap
First Baptist Church
523 Sibley St.
Hammond, IN 46320

Dear Dr. Schaap,

Thanks for your letter of January 3 which I received today. I apologize if I demonstrated a "spirit of superiority and arrogance." This was certainly not my heart. My heart was that the many good things that you have done at First Baptist of Hammond have the most positive impact for Christ that they possibly could.

My purpose in writing you was four-fold:

1. To, if possible, avoid another rift in our Fundamental movement.
2. To correct any misunderstanding in my mind regarding your doctrinal position. This would also have given me a chance to say to my brethren, "I don't think that's what he meant."
3. To make sure that I had a clear conscience and had tried to be a peacemaker.
4. To stand for the truth.

Bro. Schaap, I believe we should "be ready always to give an answer" over matters of doctrine. While I agree that we should "continue in the things" that we "have learned," I also wish to "grow in grace." I have had to reword my statements so that they did not appear to be unscriptural and on more than one occasion, I have had to change a position of mine to conform to the Word of God. Dr. Hyles spoke to me regarding his sermon on Samson. He said that Bro. Wayne VanGelderren told him he thought the sermon was heresy and that he therefore had agreed not to preach it any more. (He did continue the conversation by saying "it was a perfectly good sermon.") Dr. VanGelderren also told me that he had had this conversation with Bro. Hyles.

I well remember your visit in 1991 and the sermon you preached on prayer from the opening verses of I Timothy 2. I do not recall saying that you were "not the man for the job" of succeeding Dr. Hyles. I thought you were the logical choice. That's why I brought that possibility up to your sister-in-law Linda. I do remember telling you that a part of my purpose in inviting you to preach was that our people would think well of you when you became pastor at First Baptist of Hammond (you may recall me mentioning that you would run into a good deal of envy which I defined as others not wanting you to have what they could not have for themselves. You responded that I was the first person you had heard define that word correctly.) I do know that I often said that of all the people interested in succeeding Dr. Hyles, the least fortunate would be the one who actually was called. I further said that the best that person could hope for would be a gradual decline. I am delighted to have been wrong. I want the best for you and First Baptist Church of Hammond.

Since your sermon *For Christ's Sake*, has been given such wide distribution, including as I understand it, being distributed to the Pastor's School delegates (some of whom each year are members of our church), I have

prepared a brief lesson on my concerns with its doctrinal content. Should you be interested, I would be happy to send this information to you for your comments and corrections.

I will continue pray to for you daily. I will rejoice in every soul saved, every new convert disciplined, and every good things accomplished for the cause of our Lord. Should our paths cross, I will be happy to greet you as a friend and fellowship with you. I recognize that you have no obligation to address my concerns or answer my questions. I simply felt an obligation to extend to you that opportunity should you desire. God bless you.

Sincerely,

R. B. Ouellette
Pastor