

## About ASK

### Commentary for February 13, 2008 — What Is Being Done

It has been a surprise to me that some people mistakenly have thought that the ASK material published since Dr. Ernest Martin's death in January 2002 has been written by me. That is not the case. It is true, however, that everything written since that time has been touched, read, and edited by me — everything. I have done this to emphasize, reveal, and make plain the important points Dr. Martin is making in his various works.

I have written most all of the content within the Commentaries and monthly Newsletters since Dr. Martin died and even with those I occasionally cite and quote material written by him. It is my desire to be clear when I do so. However, most all of the monthly articles published by ASK from 2002 to the present time are from material written or spoken originally by Dr. Martin. My job and function is to edit, update, annotate, clarify, standardize, weblink, and typeset Dr. Martin's original material. In addition, along the way when research warrants, I publish my own writings.

Whether Dr. Martin's research or my work is presented, please understand that I always try to cite the source, whether from Dr. Martin or from someone else. For the articles particularly, the author of the information is right underneath the article title. The article for the month of February 2008 is from my own research.

Likewise, for material I present on *The Byte Show* with George Ann Hughes (over 80+ shows), the vast majority of presentations are of my reading Dr. Martin's material published and available on the ASK website or from his books. When I present my own material I openly state that as well.

### ***Theologically Correct?***

One misconception is that ASK should strive to be more "theologically correct," or "doctrinally correct," so we can get along with other well-meaning Christians. This is a misconception because ASK will not do that. We do not "go along to get along."

Dr. Martin had no problem with people living as they please (and neither do I), but he would not compromise or water down his understanding of the Word of God simply to gain approval from others. I totally agree with Dr. Martin's view, and it will remain ASK policy to operate in this manner.

No one should compromise their views about the Bible, just as no one should impose their view about the Bible on anyone else. We are told to exhort, teach, and reason with people about the Word of God, not lord it over anyone, nor compromise our beliefs because friends, relatives, or colleagues may not like what we believe and profess.

I am reminded of what I wrote in the December 2003 Newsletter titled "[Ho, Ho, Ho. Learn Not the Way of the Heathen! Ho, Ho Ho.](#)" Note the underlined words quoted from Eric Hoffer:

***"When you think you are offending someone and you are tempted to compromise your beliefs for the sake of their beliefs and traditions, remember the words of San Francisco longshoreman philosopher Eric Hoffer who observed: 'It is always safe to assume that people are more subtle and less sensitive than they seem.' (The Passionate State of Mind, 1954). Think about that next time you are tempted to***

**compromise your understandings and beliefs to 'get along with others.' Some people have been doing that for 40 years."**

Scholars, ministers, and lay people of influence told Dr. Martin, and some have told me as well, that ASK should modify some of its doctrinal and historical "views" to be more acceptable to mainstream Christian, religious, or scholarly thought. They feel ASK should "tone down" its message to increase its reputation in the marketplace of ideas.

Dr. Martin did not apologize for preferring to be "biblically correct," rather than being "politically correct" or "theologically correct." I can do no other than he did. It is the right course of action. In fact, we are all commanded to:

**"... sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation [behavior] in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that you suffer for well doing, than for evil doing."**

**• 1 Peter 3:15-17**

If you speak the truth of Scripture to people,<sup>1</sup> either in writing or face to face, they will speak evil of you as if you were an evildoer. They will falsely accuse you and misunderstand your good behavior and you may even suffer for doing what is proper, good, and righteous. You must do so even though it is a fearful thing to do. Your conscience will be clear if you do the right thing.

## **Old Material**

Some people believe that all of Dr. Martin's material, even from the early years of his work, should be published. This I shall not do, nor did Dr. Martin do so. ASK continues the work of Dr. Martin at its best, presenting his latest information. One of my functions that I listed in the second paragraph of this Commentary is to "update" Dr. Martin's material. This means that I choose from older material that which I think is significant, useful, and explains Scripture. That being said, there is a wealth of information in some of the older material, simple explanations of Scripture that clarify the context, material that Dr. Martin still believed, but never discussed again because in his mind he adequately covered that subject.

Dr. Martin was always ready to act and change his beliefs, even to the point of taking drastic action. He did not trumpet the fact that what he believed previously was wrong, he simply changed his understanding and writing as new evidence was available. I shall do no less. No one else is authorized to do so — not legally, not ethically. It is my job, my function, to edit **ALL** of Dr. Martin's research, as he wished, and to present what is useful and profitable for you and the entire *ekklesia* of God.

What is being done at ASK is not just being done for today, or even for tomorrow, but for those who come after us all. Everything Dr. Martin did and that I do has been to provide a solid foundation of biblical understanding, uninfluenced by doctrinal bias, popular opinion, or foolish pagan concepts. It is being done to glorify God by feeding meat to the body of Christ. It has always been the purpose of ASK to research and teach the truths of the Bible as we understand them. We are at the forefront of this type of educational endeavor. ASK is trying as best we can to promote — through education — the truths of the Holy Scriptures.

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1. Doing so when and where appropriate, with love, meekness, and propriety, being **"wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."** (Matthew 10:16).