

ERADICATION

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Dear brother in Christ Jesus

Thank you for sending Dr. Bill Gillham's book, *Lifetime Guarantee*, subtitled *Making Your Christian Life Work and What to Do When it Doesn't*. Considering all of your theological degrees, I should be the last one to evaluate this material on your behalf.

I was interested in noting those who recommended the book, on the back cover. There is Dr. Jay Kesler [Arminian], president of Taylor University [Wesleyan Arminian]. Also Dr. Ray C. Stedman [Lordship Salvation]. And Dr. Charles F. Stanley [One-naturism].

In recent years a number of well-known leaders have sought to add the identification truths to their already established ministry--usually in an effort to shore up a faltering life and outreach.

Mr. Bill Gothard has done this, while retaining his non-dispensational, law-oriented basis. But law cancels out the grace of the growth truths, which are dispensationally positioned in the rightly-divided Word of truth.

Dr. David Wilkerson has also commandeered the growth truths, seeking to amalgamate them with his charismatic tongues, healing, demonism, etc. Total incompatibility.

Dr. Charles F. Stanley has also picked up on the identification truths, seeking to implement them via Dr. Solomon's one-nature theory, with his legalistic teaching.

Dr. Charles R. Solomon has sought to incorporate the growth truths with psychology on a non-dispensational and one-nature foundation.

Dr. Bill Gillham has done the same thing. Much of his book is based upon Dr. Solomon's *Handbook To Happiness*. Dr. Gillham says, "I have taken the basic idea of the book, and modified it" (p. 58). He emulates the general "deeper life" teaching of the Southern Baptist-oriented "Fullness" group, and that of Dr. Solomon in particular.

Both Dr. Gillham and Dr. Solomon are professionally trained in psychology, which they utilize for "understanding the psychodynamics of experience." Both have committed the error of making a principle of their personal background of rejection. Both confess to not being theologians.

The fatal error of all one-nature teaching is eradication. It is the false claim that the positionally crucified old man of Romans 6:6 no longer exists. Dr. Gillham

makes such statements as the following: *"the now defunct old man"* (p. 4); *"eliminated and replaced"* (p. 74); *"I claim by faith that the old man is extinct"* (p. 187).

His son, Preston H. Gillham, who supplies Questions and Answers in the book, states: *"To say that the old man died in Christ is to say that the part of you that was by nature and birth independent and rebellious toward God no longer exists"* (p. 217).

The error of eradication is caused in turn by the error of confounding position and condition. Instead of reckoning the indwelling Adamic life to be judicially, positionally dead, it is instead considered to be actually crucified, and therefore eliminated. To the one-nature advocate Romans 6:1-10 is not that of the believer's position, but rather that of his condition.

On page 81, Dr. Gillham exclaims, *"Listen to me: there is no such thing as 'positional truth.' The Bible speaks only of truth and deception. The term positional truth is simply Satan's deception."*

"You will never get good, solid victory in this battle we all experience until you see by His Word and appropriate the truth that the old man literally died in Christ. It is not positional, it's literal. Dead men tell no tales. Those 'tales' you experience moment by moment are being offered up to your mind by the deceiver of the brethren through your flesh" (pp. 165, 166) .

Dr. Gillham's substitute for the indwelling Adamic life and nature is the *"old ways."* *"Flesh refers to the old ways or patterns. These patterns develop as you are growing up in your parents' home."* [Environmentalism.] *"The 'old ways,' the old program of living, generated by Saul, now became Paul's 'flesh.' It is my personal conviction that this remained in the brain"* (p. 26) .

"Employing our definition of 'flesh' as 'the old ways,' we will place these green highways in the brain. These are the memory traces, the habit patterns, the software of your computer" (p. 88).

"It is not our old sin nature we struggle with. It's the power of sin working through the old, worldly ways" (p. 165).

The Scofield note on Romans 6:6 is partially as follows: "The expression 'old man' occurs elsewhere (Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9) and means all that man was in Adam, both morally and judicially, i.e. the man of old, the corrupt human nature. Positionally, in the reckoning of God, the 'old man' has been crucified...." (*The New Scofield Reference Bible*, p. 1218, note 1.)

Instead of identifying the indwelling Adamic man as the source of sin in the life, Dr. Gillham blames all on Satan. *"He [Satan] accomplishes his goal through your thought life, masquerading as the now defunct 'old man'"* (p. 4).

"It will seem as if the old man is alive and well. But if he is, God's Word is not true. The Evil One's strategy is to disguise himself in your thought life as your old man" (p. 92). *"If you keep on listening to those familiar thoughts that seem to be your old sin nature, you will be a pawn in the Evil One's hand"* (p. 100) .

Preston Gillham elaborates, on p. 215: *"Satan works through the law of sin, speaking to you with first-person-singular pronouns: I, me, myself, my, and so on. He uses a masculine or feminine 'tone of voice' depending upon your sex, and he will accent his statements according to your personal accent. In other words, he impersonates you."*

The question is, Where in God's Word do they get Satan's imitating of the "eradicated" old man? When one deviates from the truth, he necessarily deviates into the realm of speculation, imagination, and outright error.

Another harmful aspect of this ministry is the futile exhortation to "act out" the truth. The word "reckon" is not mentioned in the book. Instead, one is to "act as though you're dead to sin's thoughts coming to you" (p. 92).

"The Word says you are 'dead to [the power of] sin' (Rom. 6:11). To make this an experiential reality, you must act dead to it regardless of feelings." "You are literally a brand-new person in Him, a good person who loves Jesus and deeply desires to submit to His Kingship. The Kingdom of heaven has arrived. It's in us! Let's turn Him loose to reign in us by acting dead to sin and alive to God!" (p. 108).

*"It isn't enough to just 'have faith.' You've got to act as if you have faith" (p. 144).
"We are the holy sons of God. Now let's go on with acting like who we are" (p. 162).*

In an illustration, Dr. Gillham depicts a Christian man sitting in his car in front of a post office, lusting after a passing "curvy lady." His resistance is as follows:
"This is a faith (belief) position taken by the mind and will. God says that I am dead to sin but alive to God in Christ, so I will choose to act as if I'm dead to sin by acting as though Christ is living through me in this situation.

"I 'set my mind' that Christ is expressing His life of victory over temptation through me, and I act as though it's true. I pray, 'Well, Jesus, it sure is good to know that I am dead to this situation and You're living it through me.'

"And then I flee from evil (see 2 Tim. 2:22). 'Gee, Lord, those are interesting bricks on the post office. I wonder how many there are under each window? Yes, there are seven. Isn't that interesting?'" (p. 93).

The low spiritual/high carnal level of Dr. Gillham's writing makes it very difficult to tolerate. But I trust this brief evaluation of some of the points will assist many in understanding and avoiding the error of eradication.

Thank you for keeping in touch.

Resting in Him,

