

and congregations a proof of superior piety and knowledge of the gospel of Christ. And yet these are the chief marks and characteristics of these zealous perverts, and their sectarian teaching.

**THEY USE HIS NAME IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.**

That is the worst element in their proceedings. While the whole tendency of their work is to injure His cause and give encouragement to His enemies, they use His name to delude the people, and drawing them away from Christian fellowship into coteries of their own, involve them in spiritual delusion and darkness.

**THEY APPEAL TO MEN'S COVETOUSNESS.**

They find this a strong ground of appeal, that they take no stipulated salary. Even while they are living in a man's house, and costing him more than he ever contributed to the support of the gospel, they persuade him they are working for nothing. And going from house to house they live at less cost to themselves, and probably better provided for, than if they had to earn their bread by honest labour. It was such men that embittered the life of the Apostle himself, at Corinth and elsewhere; assailing him for taking money, and boasting of their converts and their baptisms, rending by their irregular proceedings the early church, sowing tares among the wheat, and playing into the hands of the enemies of the gospel.

From all this it will be seen that these teachers are not to be encouraged. I do not mean to speak evil without a cause, of well meaning but misguided Christians. I only point out the true character of these "brethren," and the fruit of their teaching. Good intentions are no excuse for unscriptural doctrines and practices; and however pious these may be, they are to be vigorously opposed when they pursue courses injurious to the gospel of Christ. When men act in an honourable and Christian spirit, and speak the truth of those they oppose, they have a right to teach what they believe to be the truth, and to call themselves "saints" or "brethren," or any other name they choose. But when men, under a pretense of preaching the gospel, creep into the houses and confidence of professing Christians, and seek to poison their minds against their pastors and the church of Christ, and try to impose on them erroneous views of the gospel, and pervert them from the

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