

NT Restoration Foundation

"restoring New Testament practices to today's church"

03/23/05

Re: Dee Dee Warren

To Whom It May Concern

I am Steve Atkerson, president of the New Testament Restoration Foundation, a ministry devoted to producing materials on New Testament church life, teaching, and church planting. Recently two of our churches were forced to deal with a new eschatological theology called variously by the names full preterism, hyper-preterism, neo-preterism, consistent preterism and realized eschatology.

As it is a relatively new theology, it caught us totally unprepared. In short, full preterism holds that the Second Coming of our Lord is a now past event that was metaphysical and impersonal in nature, that the General Resurrection of the dead is a now past event that was other-worldly and of such a nature that decaying corpses will forever remain in the grave, that the Great White Throne Judgement of the dead is an already past event with no visible effects here on earth, and that Satan and his legions are now in the Lake of Fire with the result that there is no longer any need for spiritual warfare, putting on the full armor of God, or fear of demonic deception. It is a well articulated, systematic and consistent theology. Sadly it is also completely unorthodox (at least by creedal standards) and, more importantly, is quite false biblically (despite all its clever logic). Worse yet, since it denies the reality of demonic activity in the world, if any group was liable to demonic deception it would be those who hold to hyper-preterism.

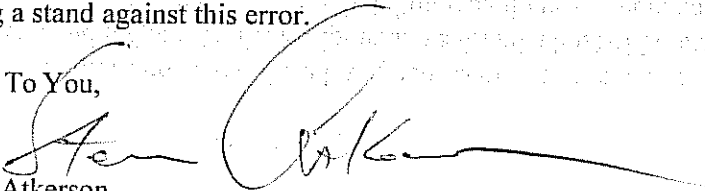
The full preterists created quite a bit of confusion, doubt and strife in our churches. In our search to understand preterism, and judge it by the Scriptures, we found a host of books, tapes and web sites available. However, by far the most helpful overall source in helping equip us to understand this error was Dee Dee Warren's web site: www.preteristlist.com. Her web site was a fantastic resource in that it contains articles, audios, and links to other materials exposing the error of full preterism. Also, through Dee I was able to be put in touch with other pastors who had been forced to deal with heretical preterism. She has shown great concern for me personally, as a pastor and church planter, as I struggled to deal with the advance of this error. She was always available by phone or e-mail for consultation or encouragement. She was a shining beacon of light during our time of darkness! We found Dee Dee to be reasonable, compassionate, interested in the needs of others, and devoted to Orthodox theology. Her love for the Lord was evidently in all our dealings with her.

In 2Ti 2:17ff, Paul expressed his disapproval of two men, Hymenaeus and Philetus, who were teaching that the resurrection of the dead has already taken place. Timothy was instructed to command certain men not to teach strange doctrines (1Ti 1:3) and full preterism seems to qualify as one of those doctrines.

I know her ministry of sounding the alarm against full preterism has not been with cost. Many who have dealt with full preterists have noticed a single-minded zeal to promote it that is not unlike that of an evangelist. Further, full preterists often have a seemingly all-consuming obsession with eschatology. Dare to oppose them are you are doomed to die the death of a thousand e-mails and have your ancestry questioned. Our experience with preterism was most unpleasant, and I deeply appreciate Dee Dee's courage in sounding the alarm and taking a stand against this error.

Grace To You,

Steve Atkerson



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Dr. Dan L. Trotter

March 14, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is addressed to all orthodox Christians who may have heard various aspersions cast upon my friend Dee Dee Warren. This letter intends to defend Dee Dee against certain charges made against her, which cluster around several points: 1) Dee Dee attacks people unfairly, 2) Dee Dee is “unloving,” 3) Dee Dee runs away from debate after attacking people.

First, let me say that I first met Dee Dee after having attacked publicly the neo-Hymenean heresy, which, among other doctrinally deviant things, denies the physical resurrection of the dead, both saved and unsaved. After the publication of that article (“Why it is Perfectly OK to Say Naughty Things About Heretical Preterists”), I was the recipient of very many attacks, which might be summarized this way: 1) I attacked people unfairly, 2) I was “unloving,” and 3) I ran away from debate after attacking people. Dee Dee ran to my defense, as I intend to do here.

First, let it be said, if you are an orthodox Christian, you need to thank God for Dee Dee Warren. She has not attacked anyone unfairly, she has attacked a vicious heresy, the same heresy which caused Paul to brand its adherents as “blasphemous” and “gangrenous.” Dee Dee has done exactly what the apostle Paul did, which is to defend the faith once for all delivered to the saints, and she has done it well. She deserves accolades for this, not condemnation. Those who are saying that Dee Dee has attacked people unfairly, and that she is unloving, need to read what Paul said about the Hymeneans of his day: they were shipwrecked in their faith, handed over to Satan, blasphemers (I Tim 1:20). They were worldly and empty chatterers, ungodly, gangrenous, people who had gone astray from the truth, faith-upsetters, wicked (I Tim 2:19) Was Paul attacking people unfairly? Was he unloving? If you say not, please note: Dee Dee has done nothing except what Paul did.

As for the charge that Dee Dee runs away from debate, I would ask you to consider Paul’s attitude towards the Hymeneans of his day. Did he ask them to debate with them? Or did he in no uncertain terms request that his readers to have nothing to do with them? With reference to the Hymeneans, Paul said “AVOID worldly and empty chatter.” (2 Tim 2:16). Paul told Timothy to “INSTRUCT certain men not to teach strange doctrines” (I Tim 1:3), he didn’t ask Timothy to sit down and debate with the men of strange doctrines. As an orthodox Christian, do you ask Jehovah’s Witnesses, or Mormons, to sit down and debate theology in your church?

Dee Dee, having once almost lost her faith to this unfortunate heresy, has the compassion to help others influenced by neo-Hymeneanism, and has led several back to orthodoxy. She has taken her valuable time to help a good friend and ministry associate of mine, whose church was almost destroyed by the heresy, to win back the church to orthodoxy. Dee Dee is not afraid to debate issues with those who are open to the claims of two millennia of orthodoxy. She will patiently go through every conceivable issue raised by the neo-Hymenean heretics to help someone sincerely seeking the truth. But she will not debate heretics, and I applaud her decision.

Dee Dee has been the victim of vicious personal attacks by some (not all) neo-Hymeneans, and it is quite incumbent upon all of us who want to see the truth defended, and not destroyed, that she be upheld and supported. She is probably the most theologically astute opponent of the neo-Hymenean heresy in the country. One day, you and your church may need her. You need to publicly support her at every opportunity.

Sincerely,

Dan Trotter