

### On Christ the Solid Rock We Stand

Dave,

After reviewing your E-mail, I became confused with the E-mail format and the way to respond. Thus, I copied a snippet of the most salient point that caught my attention, the very ripcord to the entire logic of your Branch detractor. You quote Trent as follows:

*“The Branch does have a message which has the ability to bring life without death and has proclaimed the same.” And “The topic of whether or not life without death has been restored is one that can be argued for a long time and the only way to ‘prove’ it on a practical level is to see who dies and who lives. This being the case, it must be seen who has the Bible truth necessary to cause us to never die rather than both of us just claiming to have the message which brings this about.” Trent says “who has the Bible truth necessary” Well we very well know the Branch is very very limited in this regard, what a joke. Sorry but that is what it is.* —Your E-mail, Sat, 24-Mar-2012, 3: 24PM, EST [Font color and style changed to MSC standard for publication].

It is essential to not allow anyone to undermine the Lord’s Testimony. It is the rock of our faith upon which we stand, the very foundation of our house, and we cannot move beyond it. Yet, they are welcome to our firm foundation. In fact, it —not Judaism, Buddhism, Mohammedism, communism, paganism, etc— is the reason for the 2000-year-old phenomenon called Christianity which has swept the world with much grace and freedom. Without it, we would all be idolatrous heathens —no hope for life. Therefore, do not let anyone move you from that “Rock”. There is no other affirmation to our salvation. Tell Trent that we believe in everlasting life by faith in the *Testimony of Jesus*, the very thing that gives the righteous escape from the dragon according to *Rev 12*. It is our only proof! But what a great proof indeed it is for by it, some 2000 years ago, many people were indeed resurrected — a “trick” which none have, since that time, been able to mimic. What other purpose, other than life/salvation, is there for religion, faith, or ministry? We do not have to wait and see who lives and who dies —such is walking by sight and not by faith— instead, we merely need to discern who believes His word. Those who do not, are defined as men who hate the Lord according to *John 14*. Calamity, very shortly scheduled to come (see *Matt 7: 21-27*), is the fate of their grandiose house. If we cannot stand on the Lord’s testimony, then upon what else is there to vest our faith? He, Trent, by urging upon all the *Branch message*, is essentially saying that the shifting sands of Lois and Ben Roden, the founders of the Branch, is to be our rock. To the contrary, we claim the Father and realize that all other ground provides only the sinking sand of presumption.

Rather than discoursing about Sycamore or Olive trees, distractions, center your discourse on the victory-over-the-dragon anchor, the *Testimony of Jesus*. The *Branch*, many of them, believe in the doctrine of the Female Holy Spirit. This is proof positive that they hate the Lord for He clearly and unequivocally defined the Comforter by deployment of the masculine pronoun, “He”. To believe the opposite, to teach the Comforter to instead be a female is to say that Father misspoke; it is open and flagrant, biblically-defined contempt for Christ. It is in direct contradiction to His testimony causing them to be guaranteed victims of the “Dragon” who seek to destroy the “woman”, the church. If Trent is a member of the other segment of the Branch which conservatively rejects the

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doctrine of the female Holy Spirit, then they are equally disqualified. Christ, In *John 15*, said to the disciples, “I am the Vine, ye are the branches.” To directly quote Him, He says, “*I am the true vine...I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing...Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples*” —John 15: 1-8. Remember, His “disciples indeed” are promised to have “freedom”, a synonym for everlasting life. Ben and Lois Roden, the founders of the Branch DSDA movement, were/are not free; they have, like all other presumptive prophets of Christ (see Deut 18: 20-22) become trapped in the grave; they have died; they were not, as professed, “branches/disciples” of Christ. This ill-gotten fate of theirs has occurred to them despite their claims to the opposite fate, proving that they too have not embraced the *Testimony of Jesus*, the key to life everlasting. Is not this is the very test, the ability to see who lives and who dies, which Trent offered to you as “fool proof” validation? Accordingly, though we can look forward to their resurrection, we cannot attach ourselves to them for our sap must come from the “True Vine”.

Perhaps I misunderstood the claim of your letter, but I did not know that Walt was a Branch devotee. Such explains his recalcitrance. In any event, I hope that this letter helps you. Please forward this letter to the forum.

Sincerely,

Derek