Faith of Our Fathers

TO: The Elect in Jesus Christ in the One True Holy and Everliving Apostolic Christian Church.

From: Pastor Dan Gayman, The Church of Our Christian Heritage

Dear Soldiers of the Cross:

The purpose of this exposition is to exhort and admonish all true Christian Soldiers of the ever-living CHRISTIAN CHURCH to build your lives upon the Christian Doctrines of the Faith of our Christian Fathers. It is the duty of All Churchmen to know what they believe. It is not for me or anyone else to say what the Christian Faith is. That Holy Christian Faith, that is the Doctrines of that Faith, were made definitive for us by the Apostolic Fathers of the Christian Faith. During the first several centuries of the Christian Era, great Christian minds amid tears, persecution, and bloodshed hammered out and defined the true Doctrines of the Christian Faith. These Christian Church Fathers, beginning with the first generation of students who had been personally taught by the first Apostles of Jesus Christ, began to make Christianity a definitive Faith. Beginning with the Apostolic Fathers, students of the first Apostles, and continuing down through several hundred years of the Church, our White Christian Fathers spared nothing, including loss of life and limb, amid fiery persecution that included burning at the stake...to make the Christian Faith a definitive faith. The Doctrines of the Christian Religion were articulated and defined, formed and forged upon the anvil of prayer, study, and intense persecution that resulted in the imprisonment, murder, and maiming of our White Christian Fathers. These glorious Christian Doctrines, as articulated in the early Creeds of the Church and in the theological formulas worked out during the early Church Councils, are what built the mighty CHRISTIAN CHURCH that once walked forth in Christian Europe and drove the Jews, the Huns, the Moslems, the Mongols and the Turks from Christian Europe.

Today the Christian Faith has been impoverished and depleted of the great Christian Doctrines that once walked with the Church. The Faith of our Fathers is no longer taught, believed or known by the present generation of Christian people. Christianity has become an easy believism religion, without definitive Doctrines, and without any substance. The Christian Church of today is a withered tree, dried up from the roots, without life and without substance, because the true Doctrines of the Faith are no longer taught or preached from the Pulpits. Our Christian people today are divided in CHRIST, torn asunder into hundreds of schisms, and the sheep are scattered throughout some twelve hundred different denominational churches, each claiming to be the one true Church when in reality they have all departed from the Faith once delivered unto the Saints. The goal of this Kingdom Ministry is to preach, to teach, and to proclaim the true Doctrines of the Faith which our Christian Fathers made definitive for us. **It is not for us living today, to redefine these great Doctrines, but rather to return to the Apostolic Foundations and reconstruct and restore the great Doctrines which have already been made definitive for us by our Christian Apostolic Fathers.** As the Storm of the Ages now blows against the foundations of our Western Culture it is imperative that all true Churchmen, Culturemen of this age stand and anchor themselves in the true Doctrines of the Christian Faith. Only by reconstructing the true Faith that was once made definitive by our Christian Fathers and was delivered to the Saints, amid persecution and bloodshed, can we the living Christians of this day...wear the label of Christianity with true and rightful meaning. Only when you believe and hold to the Faith that made Christianity a definitive religion is it right and meaningful to call yourself Christian. If you do not hold to that body of Doctrines which was once delivered unto the Saints...you are NOT Christian. It is the purpose of this exposition to move the present generation of Christian people back onto the Apostolic Foundations of the Faith that was once delivered to the Saints.

It is imperative that you remember that the great **Christian Doctrines of the Faith** are not articulated and set forth in the Holy Scriptures. **The Doctrines of the Christian Faith are presupposed by the Writers of the New Covenant Scriptures**. When the writers of the New Testament Scriptures wrote their Epistles to the Christian Israelites of the First Century Church these Christian Doctrines were all presupposed...they were all known. Therefore the New Testament Scriptures were not intended to set forth these Doctrines of Faith. The various Churches already had been taught the Doctrines of the Faith and the various Epistles written to the New Covenant (testament) Churches were primarily Epistles of exhortation, admonition, and correction

in the Faith. **The Christian Doctrines were presupposed!** The Doctrines that were all presupposed can only be known by careful examination of the writings of the early Church Fathers of the Apostolic Church, by careful examination of the Creeds of the Church, and by close study and research into the theological formulas which were worked out in the early Church Councils of the first centuries A.D. as the Church Fathers fought off the heretics and heresies from the CHURCH. **The Scriptural support for all true Christian Doctrine is in the Holy Scripture, but you must know what the CHRISTIAN FAITH was defined to be before the scriptural pieces will all come together. You must have a mental picture or VISION of the Christian Faith before proceeding to put together the various Christian Doctrines from the Sixty Six Books of the Bible. Only by returning to the writings of the Apostolic Fathers of the first centuries of the Christian era, holding to the great Creeds formulated by the early Church Fathers, and standing true to the Biblical Doctrinal Foundations worked out in the early Church Councils can you ever know what the Christian Faith is all about. If you have failed to define Christianity as it was made definitive for you by the Fathers of the Church then you do not deserve the right to be called Christian.** It is noteworthy to remember that the Canon of the Holy Scriptures, first appearing (in the New Testament) as individual manuscripts, were not all fully brought together into the present sixty six books until about the time that Jerome translated the Greek Old Testament and New Testament manuscripts into the Latin Vulgate Edition of the Bible (404-405 A.D.) **That Bible was the Bible for the CHRISTIAN CHURCH for the next one thousand years of history.**

As you ponder the great task of Reconstructing and rebuilding anew the foundations of the Christian Faith it would be well to carefully note how the Doctrines were **presupposed** to have been known by the New Testament Churches when the various Epistles to the Churches were being written. Remember, Paul and other authors of the New Testament had no idea that their Epistles would one day become the Holy Scripture of the New Testament. A few examples from the New Testament will suffice to demonstrate that the Christian DOCTRINES were all presupposed...**were all known and believed in the "form" taught and delivered them by the first Apostles of the holy Christian Church. "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' DOCTRINE and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."** Acts 2:42 Emphasis Our. What was this DOCTRINE? This Doctrine was presupposed by the writer of the Book of Acts. **"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of DOCTRINE which was delivered you."** Rom. 6:17 Emphasis Ours. What was that form of Doctrine which was delivered to the Church at Rome? That Doctrine was presupposed and understood to be known to these Christian People as Paul wrote this Epistle. **"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the DOCTRINE which ye have learned; and avoid them."** Romans 16:17 Emphasis Ours. Notice that the Doctrine had been (past tense) learned. What was that Doctrine? It was presupposed to be known by the Church at Rome when Paul wrote his Epistle to the Romans. **"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand: By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in MEMORY what I have preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."** I Cor. 15:1-2 Emphasis Ours. Notice that Paul had already taught these people the true DOCTRINE and he is now admonishing them to keep in memory that Doctrine which he had (past tense) taught them. **"Hold fast the FORM of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."** II Tim. 1:13 Emphasis Ours. Notice that the "Form of sound words", that is Doctrine, had already been taught to Timothy by Paul. Paul's Epistle to Timothy presupposed that the Christian Doctrine had already been taught to Timothy. **"But thou hast fully known my DOCTRINE, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience."** II Tim. 3:10 Emphasis Ours. Notice that Timothy had already known fully the Doctrine of the Faith. See II Tim. 3:14 Paul writing to Titus declared: **"Holding fast the faithful words as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound DOCTRINE both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."** Titus 1:9 Notice that Paul's Epistle to Titus clearly sets forth the truth that Titus had already been (past tense) taught this Doctrine.

Without a knowledge of the Christian DOCTRINES of the Faith as your presuppositions you can never understand the Bible. Without a Vision, without a mental picture and background into the Definitive Christian DOCTRINES of the Faith you can read the Bible for the rest of your life and you will be **"Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."** II Tim. 3:7 Jude 3 exhorts us to **"...earnestly contend for the faith which was ONCE DELIVERED unto the saints."** How can we contend for that Faith if we DO NOT know what it is. We must learn the Doctrines before we can put the VISION OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE into one glorious, harmonious whole. Isaiah 28:9 delcares: **"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept**