Healing Place Church
Attn: Pastoral Leadership
19202 Highland Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear Pastor Rizzo & Staff, 5/1/06

On April 16th, 2006, at your morning Easter service at the *River Center*, our ministry, *Consuming Fire Fellowship*, publicly challenged the gospel of *Healing Place Church*. This challenge was not impulsive, but rather, prayerfully deliberated and then executed (1 Tim 5:20; Rev 2:2). Though ungodly motives are generally attributed to our actions, we assert the Spirit of God is leading us. Many accuse us of hatred but we insist that we are constrained by love: *love for Jesus, love for the purity of His gospel, and love for you, His creation* (Lev 19:17-18). Others have suggested we are angry, to this accusation we unashamedly agree. Like the *Psalmist* of old, we confess, *"I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word"* (Ps 119:158). Therefore, in the spirit of love and with the *"zeal of our Father's house"* burning in our bosom, we urge you to consider your ways.

The public confrontation of *HPC* was meant to hopefully accomplish several things, namely:

- Warn the general public of the suspect gospel dissimulated through the *HPC* ministries.
- Warn the membership of *HPC* of the apostate nature of its message and methods.
- To encourage Biblical examination of faith, practice, and doctrine.
- To awaken the *HPC* leadership to the unscriptural direction of *HPC.*
- To alert the *HPC* leadership of the spiritual consequences of promoting the spirit of anti-christ.
- And finally, to either promote repentance/reformation or encourage those with discernment, to separate from *HPC.*

Below, you will find seven fundamental areas of spiritual compromise at *HPC* catalogued. Each observation is briefly expressed in outline form. I have purposely postponed detailed theological elaboration for future dialogue. My purpose in this correspondence is to offer an opportunity for you to answer these accusations Biblically. If *HPC* ministries, message, and methods are modeled after the example of the *Lord Jesus Christ* and founded on New Testament doctrine, as you propose, it should be simple to Biblically verify. Thus, I respectfully implore you to give us a Biblical answer to the question, *"How can you justify these things in light of God's Word?"* Again, I have refrained from offering details and/or lengthy Biblical exegesis; however, if discussion is in order, I am fully prepared to cite specifics and offer Scriptural arguments.

I. WORLDLINESS.

a. On official *HPC* ministry websites/blogs, as well as associated ministries of *HPC* (*ARC*) websites/blogs, secular music is utilized, promoted, and apparently excused as morally neutral (rock-n-roll, rap, etc.). To enjoy or otherwise be entertained by worldly music is sin (2 Cor 6:14-18; Eph 4:22; 5:11; 1 Pet 2:11; 1 Jn 2:15).
b. On official *HPC* ministry websites/blogs, as well as associated ministries of *HPC* (*ARC*) websites/blogs, secular movies as well as television programming are promoted and apparently excused as morally neutral (no doubt, much of this *"entertainment"* contains gratuitous sex and violence). Be warned, to be entertained by Hollywood, one of the *Lord Jesus'* greatest enemies, is sin (2 Cor 6:14-18; Eph 4:22; 5:11; 1 Pet 2:11; 1 Jn 2:15). If you unashamedly partake of these shameful things in the light, what are you doing under the cover of secrecy?
c. Biblical modesty at *HPC* is utterly lacking. Apparently, current fashion, regardless of the moral implications, appears to dictate. We were utterly appalled at the disregard for N.T. modesty displayed Sunday morning, April 16th. On many occasions it was necessary for us to refrain from looking at the females entering and exiting the *River Center* as they were inappropriately dressed (1 Tim 2:9).
d. Due to the unbiblical concept of *"cultural relevance," HPC* and its leadership has embraced worldliness, rather than sought to purge it (1 Cor 5:6-7; Rom 12:2).
e. Thus, not only is there an obvious absence of overall Biblical separation preached or practiced at *HPC*, there is an appalling tolerance and attraction for the *world* as well.

II. ECUMENICISM.

a. A general posture of acceptance or inclusiveness with other professing Christian groups regardless of their doctrine.
b. An obvious reluctance to denounce false Christianity, even if it was discerned.
c. Amazingly, on *Pastor Rizzo's* blog, under recommended books, he highly esteems *Mother Teresa's* book, "*In The Heart Of The World"* in spite of the fact that *Mother Teresa* was a *Roman Catholic* nun who preached another gospel (2 Jn 1:10-11). This is absolutely inexcusable.
d. Likewise, on *Pastor Rizzo's* blog, in the same category, he extols the spiritual virtues of perhaps the most notorious false prophet in the history of Western culture, *Billy Graham*.
e. This reveals a complete absence of discernment on *Pastor Rizzo's* part and reveals he is ill-equipped to be in spiritual leadership (Acts 20:31; Rom 16:17).

III. ANTINOMIANISM.

a. The propagating of the following heretical thoughts: 1. Everybody sins, even Christians. 2. Christians will continue to sin as long as they live in the body. 3. Christians cannot *"sin away their salvation."* All three of these concepts are utterly foreign to Scripture.
b. The beliefs that *obedience* to God's commandments constitutes *legalism* and a *zeal for Biblical accuracy* equates to *Phariseeism.* These erroneous beliefs are consistent with rank *Antinomianism*.
c. Failure on the behalf of the *HPC* pulpit to accurately communicate Biblical repentance, namely, that God commands all men to *stop sinning*. And furthermore, that repentance is a condition for regeneration.
d. Hence, there is an apparent failure by the *HPC* pulpit in recognizing that the aim of the gospel is to redeem sinful men from not only the penalty of sin, but likewise the power thereof (Matt 1:21; Rom 6:14). The normal Christian life is free from sin (Rom 6; 1 Jn 3:6-10; 5:18).

IV. A DE-EMPHASIS OF THE BIBLE AND SOUND DOCTRINE.

a. A perversion of the function of the church. The church of *Jesus Christ* exists primarily for the glory of God, not to meet the *"felt needs"* of society. The often quoted mantra of the *seeker sensitive movement*, *"God is into people,"* is a shameful misappropriation of God's revealed truth. Though God's love for sinful man is unquestionable and the redemption of lost sinners is His will, the Bible teaches that the exaltation of *Jesus* is foremost in the plan of God. The Scriptures do not teach that we are to do *anything* and *everything* to win souls. Our primary motivation must be *love*, namely, *love for God*. The first and the greatest commandment is to love God supremely (Matt 22:37-38). There are no rival commandments to the *great commandment*. Moreover, we certainly cannot expect to truly love men if we refuse to submit to *Jesus* as Lord. Thus, the *Body of Christ* exists solely as a habitation of God and primarily to accurately represent the *Lord Jesus Christ* on earth. *HPC* has perverted the purpose of the church by exalting charitable service above the glory of God. This, though perhaps done unconsciously, has misrepresented the *Lord Jesus Christ* and consequently brought a reproach upon the gospel.
b. A lack of solid Bible teaching. Few will agree, however, I respectfully argue that there is such a dearth of true, solid Bible teaching at *HPC* that people don't even realize what they are missing. Most of what is preached at *HPC*, no matter how wonderful the delivery, or how inspiring the message, is little more than ear-tickling or dumbed-down pseudo-teaching with a few assorted Scriptures flung in for good measure (2 Tim 4:3).
c. An emphasis on appealing to the audience rather than proclaiming the Word of God. In fact, the gospel is often re-packaged and redefined as pop-psychology. Rather than seekers being perceived as sinners in need of salvation, they are

perceived as lonely singles, bored executives, victims of dysfunctional families, etc. Rather than presenting a bold, truly Biblical message, too often the message is calculated to appeal to the seekers and meet their *"felt needs."*

d. Sin is rarely, if ever, preached against. As is the case with most false ministries today, it's not so much what is said, but what refuses to be said at *HPC.*
e. Perverse translations of the Bible abound: *NIV*, *NAS*, and the abominable *Message Bible*, etc. To use, promote, or endorse these *"Bibles"* is to propagate error. Go back to God's inerrant Word in English, the *KJV.*
f. On the rare occasions we have dialogued with *HPC* leadership, namely, *Mr. Johnny Green* and *Mr. Mike Haman*, neither man, even when appealed to, would reason with us out of the Scriptures. In fact, neither man would converse with us longer than a few moments. Both were surprisingly disrespectful, unreasonable, and above all, Biblically illiterate.
g. In contrast, Sunday, April 16th, I spoke with *Timmy Straight*, the St. Francisville campus pastor. He was both respectful and gracious. He seemed to exhibit patience as I expressed my concerns, though I don't recall him citing Scripture. I am not so naïve as to believe *Timmy* agrees with me, nor did he give me any such impression. But for his willingness to simply listen and dialogue, he is to be commended. Though I disagree with *Timmy*, he seems to represent the principles expressed in, "*a healing church for a hurting world*," as you say (however false I may deem this idiom). Though I disagree with *HPC's* ministry philosophy, *Timmy* was consistent in his approach, he was *relevant* to me. He reached out to me, even though I would be considered unlovable or perhaps, a lost cause. Gentlemen, it is easier to believe men when they practice what they preach.
h. Likewise, we have encountered and engaged many *HPC* members over the years as we have evangelized at *LSU*, on the streets, or in and around *Baton Rouge*. There are exceptions, but typically they have been hostile, irrational, and amazingly unfamiliar with the Word of God. Rarely, if ever, have I talked to an *HPC* member who appealed to the Scriptures in support of their ideas or arguments. Pitifully, an alarming number of these professed *HPC* members are coming out of barrooms, rock concerts, etc. as we evangelize. Usually, they justify their sin.

V. EVANGELISM.

a. Servant evangelism/friendship evangelism has replaced a bold, clear, declaration of the gospel.
b. Rejection of the role of *law* in presenting the gospel of *Jesus Christ*. Though the law cannot save, justify, or sanctify, it does have a crucial function under the gospel dispensation: *to give the knowledge of sin* (Rom 3:20). The Bible teaches the *law* is a schoolmaster that brings sinners to Christ (Gal 3:24) and that it is *good* if properly incorporated and applied while preaching the gospel (1 Tim 1:8-10). However, *HPC*, lacking love for God and man alike, has chosen to avoid citing, applying, and declaring the *law* of God. Without the *law*, men cannot see their need for the blessed

Savior. Thus, the omission of *law* from your gospel presentation has been the demise of your hearers. You have gained their ear with your acts of charity and then you've killed them with your so-called kindness (Prov 27:6). *Biblical love* gives men what they need; *HPC* gives men what they want. The world refers to this as *"love,"* God calls it hate (Lev 19:17-18).

c. Pragmatism has replaced fidelity to Scripture as the ultimate authority for methodology. Apparently, pragmatism is so ingrained that few, if any in *HPC* leadership seem to recognize its presence or understand its gross spiritual ramifications. Pragmatism can be defined as an approach that evaluates theories or beliefs in terms of the success of their practical application (C.O.E. Dictionary). In other words, a *"the end justifies the means"* or *"if it works, it must be right"* or *"if it's big and popular"* mentality. This, obvious to the spiritual mind, is a formula for spiritual disaster. The shift in philosophy is subtle, but nevertheless, crippling: for example, *HPC* makes sure it hands someone a bottle of cold water and if the opportunity arises, may mention *Jesus* (which of course, is not, in and of itself, truly gospel preaching). The Biblical approach is somewhat inverted: we would make sure we confront sinners in their sin, preach the gospel to them and if the need arises, give them a bottle of cold water. *HPC* is riddled and leavened with the worldly principle of pragmatism at the root. Thus, your evangelism is calculated to be relevant, rather than bring repentance. This is gross compromise (Gal 1:8-9).

c. The Bible teaches that the Holy Ghost comes to *"reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment"* (Jn 16:8). Accordingly, ministries who are anointed by the Holy Ghost, when evangelizing, will readily denounce sin, exalt obedience to God's commandments, and warn of eternal judgment. These are the doctrinal essentials that *HPC* rarely, if ever, communicates but demonstrably avoids. Apparently, due to the erroneous doctrine of *"cultural relevance"* there is an unconscious obsession to avoid what is perceived as *"negative and critical"* resulting in a failure to yield to God's Spirit in evangelism.

VI. DISORDER.

a. At *HPC* women are promoted as "*preachers, pastors,* and *teachers."* Women are seen as God-called leaders in direct violation of N.T. commands. This is disorder (1 Tim 2:11-12).

b. Women, in general, are not warned as they reject their god-called place to be *keepers at home. Rather,* they are encouraged when pursuing careers outside the home. Again, this is disorder (Tit 2:5).

VII. ASSOCIATIONS.

a. *HPC* is associated, according to the *HPC* website, with various ministries that are renowned for their heresy (*Mother Teresa*, *ARC*, *Promise Keepers*, *Willow Creek*, *Lakewood*, *Hillsong*, *Joyce Meyer*, *Paula White*, etc.).
b. From *Catholicism* to *Word of Faith*, from *Seeker-sensitive* to *CCM*, and from the *false prosperity gospel* to *JDS* (Jesus died spiritually), doctrinal heresy abounds. This is sin (2 Jn 1:10-11).

We request a written response. Do you deny these accusations? Can you present a logical, rational, and Scriptural argument to answer these charges (1 Pet 3:15; Jude 1:3)? We are more than willing to dialogue and reason with you. I realize you label us as *negative, critical,* and perhaps *beyond reach and not worth the trouble to address.* I ask you, is this consistent with your mission statement?

"HPC reaches out to people who are...traditionally overlooked."
HPC
Website

On his blog, *Mr. Haman* even likened us to the *Pharisees* inspired by *demonic spirits*...

"Opposition like this is nothing new to Jesus. He didn't even bat an eye at the small gathering of sign-wearers and screamers outside the arena. He came up against religious spirits in His day all the time--they were called the Pharisees." Mike Haman's blog, "Easter 2006" April 18, 2006

Mr. Haman conveniently overlooked one, small detail of his Biblical parallel*: Jesus didn't write about the Pharisees after-the-fact from the comfort and safety of his computer screen. No, He boldly and publicly confronted them face to face confounding and silencing them with the Word of God.* This, *HPC* leadership did not do. On Sunday, April 16th, while we challenged your ministry in public and freely talked to the membership of *HPC*, you, the leadership, were conspicuously absent. This is not like *Jesus*, but very much like someone He warned about...

"But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep." John 10:12-13

We are not *wolves*, but apparently you believe we are. Therefore, you should answer our Biblical concerns with Biblical answers; if not for us, for the sake of the sheep. To mark and avoid trouble-makers is Biblical, but the pattern calls for first, confrontation, then separation (Titus 3:10-11). Even *Jesus* dialogued with the *Pharisees*; He certainly died for them once. Can you please love us? *Healing Place Church* is renowned for its charitable contributions to the needy. You have clothed the naked, fed the hungry, given a cup of cold water to the

thirsty. Certainly, these things are to be commended. However, we are not asking for money, or food, or water. No, for our *healing*, we are simply asking for the Word of God.

"He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." ***Psalm 107:20***

Would *Jesus* deny anyone the Word of God? Can you please give us the Bible (2 Tim 2:24-25; Tit 1:9-11)? We eagerly await your response.

For the cause of *Jesus*,
Pastor Britt Williams

Consuming Fire Fellowship
www.consumingfirefellowship.org
pastor@consumingfirefellowship.org
601.888.3469

We received several responses from ***Healing Place*** congregants. The following was from a ***Mr. Bobby Jackson,*** which was the most extensive and serves as an example of all the typical objections to our charges (rebuttal following)...

Response to Open Letter From Mr. Bobby Jackson

May 30, 2011

Pastor Britt Williams,

First, may I start by saying I truly admire your dedication and passion for the Lord. You are truly a man of God!!! I believe it is the very passion that you possess that is missing in a lot of American Christianity today. Not many people are willing to go the lengths you are. Not only do you have a great fire and passion for the Lord, but also a great knowledge of God and His word. There is no doubt God has called you to do a mighty work!!!

As for me, I am a very humbled man. I have spent most of my life in drug abuse. I did have nearly seven years of sobriety… Of course that was the result of prison!!! I have ashamedly lived a life in hatred towards God. 16 months before I was released from prison I encountered God. It was a mighty experience that I will not get into now. But I will say, without any knowledge of God, I experienced Him and His mighty love, grace and mercy. All in one instance I was completely delivered of all my bondage, pains, rejection, unforgiveness, etc… I became obsessed with this mighty God I never knew. It was not a

growing process for my deliverance. I am still growing and learning daily, but my deliverance was mighty and instant!!! I spent the rest of my prison sentence telling everyone about Jesus and what He did in my life. I have been out for 5 ½ years now and still full of His love and fire!!!

Sorry to ramble on, but I just want you to understand that I am very humbled to even write such a mighty man of God that has done so much for His Kingdom, for so many years!!! I do understand that you have done more for His kingdom in 5 years than I have my entire life. God is using you mightily!!! You are an elder who truly deserves honor and respect!!!

However, what I want to talk to you about today is something different. Although I firmly believe and preach purity, I firmly disagree with your stance on Healing Place and similar churches. I am not personally a member of Healing Place, although I do have enough knowledge of Dino Rizzo and Healing Place to know he is a mighty man of God!!! He has a heart for God and to serve His people. That is truly the basis of His entire ministry… To serve!!!

Now, I would like to say one more thing before I begin this debate. The only reason I am writing this is I truly sense sincerity in your letters. I have encountered wolves whose motives are to destroy others and bring others down. But I truly believe that is not you. You are different. You have a pure heart and conscience. You have done the things that you do because you truly believe you are serving God… And you are!!! However, I do not believe any of us are flawless in our beliefs. None of us can say we have figured out God in fullness. Isaiah says "My ways are not your ways; my thoughts are not your thoughts." Who can know the Lord and all His ways? We all have to be willing to acknowledge we are not flawless in our beliefs. If not, we are unteachable. I am out for Gods truth. It is His gospel, not mine. Where I can be corrected, I would like to be corrected. I want to be right with Him, not with me!!!

Although you are fulfilling a mighty calling on your life, I feel that you are not flawless in your beliefs as well. In all truth, I do believe you are very close!!! I do not believe you error in sin. Everything that you do, you do to honor God. And I believe in the motive of heart. I have made errors, still make errors!!! But when I make errors truly attempting to serve God as my only motive, I believe there is grace for my errors. It is my belief, and I am aware I can be wrong, that this is the same case for you on this subject.

After reading your Open Letter to Healing Place Church, I sought out for truth in the Bible on the subject. This is what I have found on my studies…

First, I like to start with a few scriptures. This is not to show Healing Place right, but to show your attack wrong.
-Rom. 12:16 – "Be of one mind one toward another."
-Phil. 2:2 – "Complete my joy by being of the same mind."

-1 Pet. 3:8 – "Have unity of mind."
-Col. 3:14 – "Above all, put on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony."
-1 Cor. 1:10 – "I appeal to you by Jesus that all of you agree and there be no division among you, but unity with same mind."
-Phil. 1:27 – "Stand firm in one spirit and one mind."
-Eph. 4:3 – "Eager to maintain unity."
-Acts 4:32 – "All who believe of one heart and soul."

Clearly the Bible urges us to get along and support each other. How do you justify all the attacks in light of these scriptures? It does not sit well with me to condemn what other people are doing for God. Lives are truly being changed through this ministry. We are to judge a tree by its fruit. And there are countless people who were on drugs, prostitution, etc. that are now clean and living for Jesus because of what God has done through this ministry. This has to be God. Beelzebub cannot cast out Beelzebub. And if this is God and we call it the devil, is this not blasphemy?

Jude 1:16 – "These men are grumblers and ***fault finders.****" If one can look at Dino Rizzo and look straight past everything that he has done for the kingdom of God and our community to see people did not dress appropriately enough, is this not fault finding. Fault finding is not a fruit of the spirit, but rather a fruit of the devil. This would be a comparison for me to look past all the mighty things that you have done for the Lord to condemn you because I have some different beliefs and strategies than you. This should not be. You are still a mighty man of God and I would be a murderer if I attacked your character. From my understanding of the word, our God, in whom we are all still trying to understand and know, wants us to love each other and serve along each other and build each other up. Not tear each other down.*

I understand this could be difficult when you do not agree with what others do, but it was not a conditional suggestion, rather a commandment to be of one mind. God knew we would not always agree with one another, but told us to do it anyway. You have not obeyed in this particular area. I believe these scriptures show us He would have us love in agreement rather than fight over doctrinal views. Even knowing we will not always agree, Paul still tells us to agree with one another.

Gal. 5:15 "But if ye bite and devour one another take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." I understand that Dino has not written you back on these matters. I also understand he does not want to fight or argue so as to be in compliance with the word of God. It is a clear commandment. In fear of being consumed, he has rather chosen to refrain from even taking up for himself. What a man of God!!! Did you know a man offered Dino Rizzo a Hummer? Dino, being more concerned with serving God and people than things of the world, refused the extravagant gift. He wants to win people to the Lord and refuses to let anything be a hindrance. Could it be fighting and arguing with other churches could be another hindrance that he wants to avoid? It is a turn off to the unsaved, in which he is

trying to save, to be fighting with others churches about who is right and wrong. People need Jesus, not doctrinal beliefs. Doctrinal beliefs do not set free. Only the Son can set free. And that is what Dino is bringing to the captives of Baton Rouge. Not philosophy.

I have seen so many times people take what was not for them and think that it is not for anybody. This is an entire body of Christ, not just one part. And while you have a very mature church, where people are learning and growing in the Lord, there is also need for ministry for the ones who have not been saved yet. You will not get them saved by condemning them, yelling at them or telling them what they cannot do. We were commanded to preach the gospel. The gospel is the, "GOOD NEWS." If they do not hear the good news, they will never be free.

I can assure you Dino believes in purity and modesty AND preaches so. However, he also understands it is more about getting Jesus in their hearts first rather than telling them what to do. As in the story of Mary and Martha, they greatest thing we can do is be at the feet of Jesus, not service. Just because we serve does not mean we love. I have men that serve me every day that do not love me. But if we love, we most certainly will serve. Therefore, I see love being the center of Christianity. Once one is rooted in the love and mercy of God, they do need to learn about purity. But you do not teach an elementary school kid Algebra. That is for High School kids. That child must first learn the basics of simple mathematics. Just because you teach Algebra does not make a Mathematics teacher wrong. Both can be right. The greatest thing we introduce someone to is the love of Christ. Not tell them the same thing that they have heard their whole life. Don't do this, don't do that. If we are not rooted with a solid foundation of the love of Christ, how can we build a solid house of purity?

I noticed what Jesus did when the Pharisee's started trying to put Jesus in an argument with John (John 4:3) "Jesus left!!!" That is what Dino has done with the argument. Left it. This seems very doctrinal to me.

Romans 16:17-18 "Watch out for those who cause divisions, avoid them. For such persons do not serve the Lord." Are you causing divisions??? Is this you He is speaking about? How can you be sure? I encourage you to reevaluate your actions in light of these scriptures. While Dino is trying to get Jesus in people's hearts you are speaking out against him as an apostate. I see that Dino did exactly what the Bible tells him to do when someone is trying to cause division with him… Avoid him. (You)

In Romans, when speaking of meat, it says if a man believes it is right then it is right. If he believes it is wrong, it is wrong. If you believe Dino's ministry is wrong and avoid it, you most certainly serve God. But let's just assume for a minute Dino is wrong. Even being wrong, I can assure you Dino is following the convictions of his heart. If he does not follow the convictions of his heart to obey a man, is this not sin? Romans 14 clearly says it is. If he is truly following the convictions heart and seeing a mighty move of God of people being set free as evidence (Fruit of Spirit) then is he not doing what God has asked him to do in

following his convictions? Then the appropriate action would not be to ask him to sear his conscience, but rather for God to show him clarity if he is wrong. I would never ask someone to deny their convictions to obey my doctrinal beliefs. The Jews did that. They put their law above God Himself. While God's word always lines up with His words, His word also says there is no law against love. What Dino does is in love of God and people. And people are being freed. So is there a law against his love?

Romans 12:4 "All members not of the same office."
Could it be that Dino has not been called to the exact ministry as you and he has been called to reach people and introduce them to the love of God and you were called to help grow people in the Lord? When we all do our part together as a body, our body works better. But when one part is always attacking the others, that is a cancer. If you feel like something should be preached, preach it. But that doesn't make someone else wrong for not preaching it.

In defense of Healing Place and other like ministries, I have to defend them as an ex drug addict. With all respect, it was people like you and your ministry who always ran me away from God whenever I was looking for Him. Not that your ministry is not needed, I highly value your ministry now as a little more mature Christian. But then, I thought I had to get myself right before I could find Him. Dino has shown Baton Rouge that you find Him first and He will get you right. When I come home from work, my daughter does not have to meet requirements first before she can come love me. Our love comes first. From my life's experience, I have learned to value people like Dino. While he has not ministered to me personally, the same things that you are coming against are the same things that got me saved. I was accepted and love without conditions just as I was!!! Unheard of!!! This unfailing love broke down my walls and introduced me to the love of God. Jesus said, "Come as you are." That is what I needed and that is what a hurting worlds needs!!! A God that we can come to as we are. Once I met Him, I loved Him. I no longer had to get right, I wanted to get right!!! That is what Dino is bringing to Baton Rouge… The furious love of God. That's what Dino is called to do and that is what he is doing.

With all respect, when we take what God is doing and attribute it to the devil, that is blasphemy. An unforgiveable sin. I am not going to say outright say you are blaspheming God. That is for God to determine. But this is my honest beliefs on the matter. I would be very careful with this. I am not trying to convert you to my beliefs but rather concerned for anyone who may be in jeopardy of blasphemy.

I cannot help but think of the scripture in the first chapter of Philippians. They did not preach the whole truth of Jesus. Maybe even had some bad motives. Paul said I do not care, as long as Christ is preached, I am happy. Are you greater than Paul? If the Bible clearly states to not stop them, why do you attempt to stop them? As long as Christ is preached, you should be happy. If there is error, God will most certainly show them. He is able. But "Who are you to judge another's servant?" There is no way you can make what you are doing line up

with this scripture. Paul rejoiced just because Christ was preached. This is to serve as your example.

As a non member of Healing Place, just an ex drug addict, I would ask that you stop coming against these ministries and the work of God. It is impossible to say that God is not working in these ministries; my life is just one of the many proofs!!! I am free and live a life devoted to God because of these ministries. I cannot help but think, what if I would have heard you before I heard the good news? If that seed would have been planted in me before I heard this amazing gospel, I probably would not have been able to receive from them, or others that I did receive from. I wonder how many other people were not able to receive from them due, to evil being spoken of them??? I pray that they are still saved somewhere so that their blood is not on your hands. Could you imagine trying to win people to the Lord and everywhere you go to serve Him, people have already heard people speaking evil against you. In all honesty, it would hurt your ministry and effectiveness. I see you coming against the very work of God and beg you, for your sake, for the churches sake and for the sake of the lost to stop speaking evil against the work of God. You can argue scripture all day, but no one can argue that I once was lost and know I am found, I once was blind and now I see. I once was a drug addict and now everything I do revolves around Jesus Christ, our Lord and personal Savior!!! And this is because of the very thing that Dino Rizzo is bringing to Baton Rouge. The love of Christ!!!

Mr. Britt, I certainly thank you for your time today. Please do not receive this as an attack or a rejection. Rather a different perspective and offering a few scriptures per your request. While we do not share exact doctrinal beliefs, we can coexist in Baton Rouge AND love each other AND even agree with one another in love. Both of our beliefs are in Jesus Christ is the Son of God and He died for our sins. And with that we are brothers and I encourage a loving relationship, even if we do not have the same views. It is what God asks of us. If you are wrong, I still know your motives are right and there is grace to cover the error. If Dino is wrong, his motives are right as well and there is grace to cover the error. Either way, how can you say he is apostate? Romans 10:6-7 tells us not to say who goes to heaven or hell.

All opinions expressed, I truly understand you are a man living your life making all efforts to please God and I applaud you for that. You have done a mighty job in leading many people to the Lord, many more than me. I do apologize if anything came out insincere. You are Gods disciple and I do not want to speak out against you in fear of being judged of the Lord myself. Thanks you for all you do for His kingdom and for all you do in Baton Rouge mighty man of God!!! One day soon we will all be in heaven at the feet of Jesus in awe and worship!!! Worshipping in love and unity!!!

In Christ,

Bobby Jackson

The following is my response to Mr. Jackson...

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Thank you for taking time to write and express your opinions. Your perspective is not unlike many other professing Christians whom I've encountered over the years. As you know, as Christians, we are to base our message, methods, and doctrine solely on the *Word of God (Matt 7:24-25).* The Scriptures must be the only rule and standard for faith and practice. Hence, when we, as Christians, are approached with concerns like yours, we must measure the content and concepts expressed therein against the *Word of God.* If such concerns are confirmed or validated by *God's Word* then we must humbly be corrected. However, if they are unfounded and unscriptural, then they must be ignored, as we must obey God rather than men. Unfortunately, after reviewing your criticisms, they appear to be rooted in embarrassingly poor exegesis of the Scriptures, *straw-man* arguments, and rank humanism. I know this is a harsh statement, nevertheless, if you, with an open heart and a humble spirit, will sincerely consider the following response, I believe you will be forced to agree with my assessment *(Acts 17:11).*

Below I will systematically address many of your statements, assertions, and questions *(for convenience of communication, please note that your comments are in bold, italic, and blue font).*

"I firmly disagree with your stance on Healing Place and similar churches."

I could briefly respond to this one statement and close my letter as you have carefully pin-pointed the dispute *(my stance on HP)* but essentially evaded it throughout the rest of your letter. We are wasting our time in this dialogue if you fail to address the pertinent issues at hand. In my open letter to *HP,* I irrefutably establish *(which has yet to be challenged)* that *Healing Place Church,* as well as its copy-cat ministerial association, *ARC,* are grossly unscriptural in their message, methods, and practice. As my letter outlines, this is not merely in one narrow sphere, but in many, if not every point whereby ministries are to be judged and evaluated. However, even though you refer to your letter as a *"response",* you ignore the relevant issues that frame the debate. Unless you can justify, by the Scriptures, the many areas of gross compromise whereby *Healing Place* is obviously violating the New Testament, then any defense you offer is futile and every argument a *straw-man.* If you were compelled to write me after reading my open rebuke of *Healing Place*, why fail to communicate any points challenging the very motivations for my confrontation and condemnation of their ministry? You must, for example *(and this is only one of many)*, prove to me how *HP* leadership can promote and enjoy worldly entertainment, secular rock music, movies, and culture and not be considered enemies of God *(Jam 4:4)*, which you have not done. Nevertheless, for your benefit, I will address your stated concerns.

Again, I appreciate your willingness to contact me, but I forewarn you that I will, in this correspondence, speak to you very directly and very frankly. This is a very sobering and important issue. This is not merely about petty, peripheral spiritual disagreements, but about the very essence of Biblical Christianity. Souls are at stake, the glory of God hangs in the balance, and one of us is grossly mistaken and utterly deceived.

"I do not believe any of us are flawless in our beliefs. None of us can say we have figured out God in fullness."

Indeed, there is a truth that God is infinite and we are finite, hence, it is quite impossible for the human mind to fully or absolutely comprehend God and His essence, for He is eternal. However, you have taken this self-evident truth and unconsciously and unwisely expanded it into the sphere of God's revealed will, or that which He has unveiled for our consideration and compliance in His Word. No doubt, we are unwise to trust our own reasoning, our own ideas, and our own abilities, thus we must cast our faith on what God has revealed in His *Word*. Everything, both in doctrine and practice, must be strictly judged and measured by its holy instruction. Christian truth is neither mystical or beyond our comprehension. In fact, the practical execution of God's known will, His *Word*, is essentially an open-book test: *everyone can simply reference God's text book, the Bible, to know the answers.* What could be any simpler? Therefore, we *can know* the perfect will of God, by knowing *God's Word (Eph 5:17)* and we can obey what we know by His grace. We can also, many times, easily know if others are obeying, disobeying, or subject to God by measuring their lives by the same. Therefore, no one has an excuse to violate *God's Word*—no one.

"You have a pure heart and conscience. You have done the things that you do because you truly believe you are serving God... And you are!!!"

Bobby, you display one of the most dangerous marks of this modern-day false gospel: *minimizing sin and error in a humanistic effort to appear positive and loving.* If *Healing Place* is indeed blessed of God as you assert, it is both unscriptural and illogical to suggest I, a professed leader in the *Body of Christ,* can claim *ignorance* or *sincerity* for boldly and unapologetically denouncing a proposed God-ordained ministry. How can I be a "*man of God"* and "*serving God"* while I simultaneously undermine God? The Bible plainly teaches such a moral contradiction is impossible...

Jesus said, *"He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth." (Luke 11:23)*

"He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." (John 8:47)

"And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me." (John 16:3)

When *Paul (formerly Saul of Tarsus)* zealously attacked the church *(Gal 1:14)*, it was because he did not know *Jesus* and had to REPENT *(stop, change his mind and exhibit corresponding behavior)* to find grace…

And he said, "*Who art thou, Lord?"* And the Lord said, *"I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." (Acts 9:5)*

The *Apostle Paul* wrote: "*Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed…" (1 Cor 12:3)*

The *Apostle John* wrote: "*We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." (1 John 4:6)*

As the above Scriptures prove, men who are truly converted, with pure hearts and clean consciences, do not attack *God* or *His people* as they fulfill His will.

"But when I make errors truly attempting to serve God as my only motive, I believe there is grace for my errors. It is my belief, and I am aware I can be wrong, that this is the same case for you on this subject."

It is true, external actions, whether Scriptural or unscriptural, are only mere surface manifestations of deeper heart motives and intents. However, this Biblical truth, rather than minimizing moral responsibility *(as you suggest),* actually increases man's moral accountability; on judgment day, men will not only give an account for *what* they did or didn't do, but likewise, *why* they did or didn't do *(Rom 2:16)*. To teach that sincerity in behavior somehow negates culpability for sin *(clear violation of the moral law)* is irresponsible and nowhere found in the Scriptures. Not only is such a thought extra-Biblical it is also noticeably absurd when universally applied. Thousands of cults are seemingly "*sincere"* in their efforts to "*serve God"*. Do we suppose they are under grace because they claim to be genuine? Should we assume Muslim terrorists who commit acts of cold-blooded murder have "*grace"* because they *"truly attempt to serve God as (their) only motive"*? The fact is, according to the Scriptures, no one who perpetually lives in sin and/or abides in error can be seen as sincere. Why? Because, the Bible teaches us that those who seek God with their whole heart discover Him *(Jer 29:13).* Likewise, it teaches us the pure in heart see God *(Matt 5:8)* and those who truly knock, the door will always be opened *(Matt 7:7)*, etc. Consequently, men who truly *know God* can discern the difference between the holy and the profane because they have an accurate reference point for comparison.

There is little doubt, we can know and conform to divine truth or God could not hold us accountable. Bobby, this is the bottom line: If *Healing Place* is truly blessed of God as you say, we must not be so naïve' as to assume the *Holy Ghost* is attacking His own work *(in fact,*

the Bible teaches exactly the opposite, see Lk 10:16; 1 Jn 4:6). Holy men who know *Jesus* recognize Him when they see Him, otherwise how can they claim to actually *know* Him?

So, rest assured, Bobby, I know exactly what I am doing. Do not assume my actions are the spontaneous, impulsive, and rash measures of an unstable spiritual misfit. What I have done, written, and proclaimed against *Healing Place* and similar ministries has been calculated, deliberate, and carefully bathed in prayer. Indeed, without the slightest apprehension, I boldly contend my efforts to expose *Healing Place* are directed by the leadership of the *Holy Ghost*. There is no doubt in my mind *(because I have God's Word to verify my conclusions)*, eternity will prove my words and actions reflect the mind of God.

Thus, I am fully and completely accountable *(Jam 3:1)* and to suggest otherwise is to be dishonest with the clear facts presented in *God's Word.*

"I firmly believe and preach purity... Dino believes in purity and modesty AND preaches so."

I am sure you are convinced that you believe and preach *purity* or *holiness*, but you are deceived. Consider for a moment the way you have approached me. If what you say is true, I am either guilty of, or on the verge of, committing the only unforgivable sin mentioned in the Bible, *blasphemy of the Holy Ghost.* You insinuate I am attacking God's chosen leadership and God's people, and being used by Satan to cause confusion and division in the *Body of Christ*. You also imply I am undermining the very gospel of *the Lord Jesus Christ* by urging men to refuse the message of *Healing Place* and similar ministries, and thereby potentially casting stumbling block after stumbling block before both the spiritually immature and sinners alike. Remember, I am neither a new believer nor a novice in ministry, hence, if there is anyone without excuse, it is me; if there is anyone you should be able to boldly confront, it would be me. Yet, you have tip-toed around my *alleged sin, sin that will damn my soul forever,* as if you were negotiating a mine-field. Granted, you are to be commended, as the Scriptures teach *(1 Tim 5:1)*, for seeking to entreat me as an elder. The only problem is, if what you say is true, I cannot truly be considered an elder in Christ, but an agent of the devil *(which I concede if HP is not what I claim)*. Driven by your man-centered, seeker-sensitive, positive philosophy, you seem far more concerned about avoiding offense than exalting the holiness of God. Besides the fact that you present absolutely no Biblical evidence either exonerating *Healing Place* or condemning me, you undermine any fear I might have by implying I am merely misguided by spiritual zeal. Instead of directly and authoritatively warning me of my perceived sin, you send a confusing, mixed message of gentle-chiding offset with empty adulation. Why should I worry? You write to me as if I simply see things from a different perspective. I can't be that bad, after all, you have flattered me, *a man you insist is so blind he is attacking God, His church, and His true message*, with flowery terms like *dedicated*, *fiery*, *passionate*, *knowledgeable*, *pure, sincere, godly, etc.* You have even given me the impression that though I am perhaps wrong, because I am earnest, there is grace to cover my error. As I read through your letter, I thought, *"Why wouldn't I feel comforted in my*

perceived error? It's almost as if a seductive voice whispers to me, 'it's o.k. ye shall not surely die'" (Gen 3:4). If I were truly guilty of the sins you vaguely and sheepishly charge me with, you would be my worst enemy *(Prov 27:6).*

No, Bobby, you think you believe and preach purity, but you are far too concerned about pleasing men and avoiding offense to actually love men with the truth and press their conscience with the holiness of God *(Gal 1:10).* The evidence is in the very letter you penned to me: if you, in your effort to confront me for my perceived sin, actually end up comforting me and undermining the fear of God, what would you do with rank sinners?

"Clearly the Bible urges us to get along and support each other."

The Bible urges no such thing and your statement above is a rather shallow and simplistic way to summarize the command for Christian unity. Unity, contrary to the erroneous ecumenical teaching today *(which HP promotes and you are urging in this correspondence)*, is founded on adherence to *sound doctrine* rather than de-emphasizing *doctrine* (*Rom 16: 17; 1 Cor 1:10; 1 Tim 4:16; 6:3-5; 2 Tim 4:1-5; Tit 2:1, 7).* It is impossible for believers to be unified in Christ while ignoring or de-emphasizing doctrinal truth, as *Jesus* is the truth *(Jn 14:6).* In reality, it is not me who is disobeying the concept of Biblical unity, but the lying and cowardly false teachers at *Healing Place* who refuse to verify, by the Scriptures, that they are following the N.T. *(1 Pet 3:15),* which is the foundation for all true unity. For this reason, they reveal they are not aligned with the true church of *Jesus Christ (1 Jn 4:6).*

"How do you justify all the attacks in light of these scriptures (you cite: Rom 12:16; Phil 2:2; 1 Pet 3:8; Col 3:14; 1 Cor 1:10; Phil 1:27; Eph 4:3; Acts 4:32)?"

Not one Scripture you cite teaches we must unify with individuals or professed churches that live in sin and/or teach false doctrine; not one. Every Scripture you quote presupposes true conversion, Biblical submission, and genuine Christianity. Moreover, even among confirmed believers, the N.T. explicitly teaches false doctrine must never be overlooked/ignored for the sake of unity, but rather, be confronted and corrected *(Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Thess. 3:14; Titus 3:10-11; 2 John 1:9-10; John 10:12-13; 2 Cor. 11:13; Philip. 3:2; Jude 1:3; 1 John 4:1, etc.).* Therefore, the way to Biblical unity is not to ignore error, but to challenge and purge error.

"I understand this could be difficult when you do not agree with what others do, but it was not a conditional suggestion, rather a commandment to be of one mind."

Bobby, how can you seriously suggest the command to Biblical unity is unconditional? Sir, I urge you to stop and think about what you are writing. According to your extra-Biblical interpretation, we are thus required to be *"of one mind"* with anyone, even heretics and infidels. Should we unify with *Mormons* because they claim to follow *Jesus* or does their false doctrine make that impossible? I assume you would agree we can never yoke with *Mormons* and by doing so, you disprove your assertion that the command to unify is unconditional. Moreover, such an idea if true, would make it impossible for us to obey the command to be

separate from the world and avoid *unrepentant false teachers (Rom 16:17; 2 Cor 6:17).* The Bible teaches no such idea as *unconditional unity.*

"Jude 1:16 – 'These men are grumblers and fault finders.' If one can look at Dino Rizzo and look straight past everything that he has done for the kingdom of God and our community to see people did not dress appropriately enough, is this not fault finding."

I am not *"fault finding"*, but rather, I am righteously judging *Healing Place* according to the Scripture, which is lawful and right *(which, btw, you are likewise doing by confronting me with a corrective letter).* In regards to whatever you assume *HP* has done for the "*Kingdom of God",* this means nothing if they are preaching another gospel. Their service to *our community* means little, as many cults do commendable deeds to attract converts. Finally, Bobby, *modesty* is a N.T. command, so I do not know why you would casually brush it aside as if God did not mean what He said *(how many commands must be broken before we become alarmed?).* Nonetheless, to imply the denunciation of *Healing Place* is based on this lone Biblical violation, as grievous as it is, is a gross misrepresentation of the plain facts of my open letter.

"We are to judge a tree by its fruit."

True, but the real question we must ask is, *"what is fruit"*? Fruit is never presented in the Scriptures as temporal success or garnering a larger church membership, but rather, conformity to the character of *Jesus Christ* or the *Word of God.* Hence, I have already confirmed that the "*fruit" Healing Place* shows is contrary to Scripture.

"And there are countless people who were on drugs, prostitution, etc. that are now clean and living for Jesus because of what God has done through this ministry. This has to be God."

Really? This is certainly contrary to the testimony that I've seen over the years. Now, granted, I am not suggesting that no one has ever been genuinely converted at *HP*, but rather, the balance falls short of Biblical conversion and even worse, tends to gross deception. I meet people who attend *Healing Place* all the time. As I mentioned in my open letter...

"Rarely, if ever, have I talked to an HPC member who appealed to the Scriptures in support of their ideas or arguments. Pitifully, an alarming number of these professed HPC members are coming out of barrooms, rock concerts, etc. as we evangelize. Usually, they justify their sin."

Nothing has changed. Besides, opinions on temporal results are subjective and are only a very small part *(rightly discerned)* of what should be used to verify whether a ministry is of God or not.

"Beelzebub cannot cast out Beelzebub."

Indeed, and neither is *Jesus* undermining *Jesus*. This being an absolute, why refer to me then as a *sincere man of God* who is *serving God*? I am a *man of God* or a *devil,* but I cannot be both. Rest assured, Bobby, I am not offended with your challenge to my views but I do find all the unnecessary flattery insincere, unscriptural, and illogical.

"And if this is God and we call it the devil, is this not blasphemy?"

Allow me to clearly establish my view so there is no misunderstanding: I, without apology or apprehension, do utterly denounce *Healing Place* and boldly declare it is both apostate and riddled with anti-christ deception. This does not mean I believe there are absolutely no Christians at *Healing Place*, as I am sure there are some *(perhaps young, unskilled in the Word),* but rather, that its ministry is spiritually dangerous and should be utterly avoided. Any true Christian who is under the leavened influence of *Healing Place* must separate or eventually be deceived by its error. This is obvious and clear to all who truly know and believe *God's Word*. If *Healing Place*, as you say, "*is blessed of God"*, then I concede, I am lost, on my way to hell, and filled with ten thousand devils of religious deception. Until someone, by the Scriptures, can justify *HP's* cited worldliness and compromise, then I will forever remain brazenly unmoved and unrepentant. I have nothing to fear from God by exposing Bible-twisting liars who misrepresent Him.

"Even knowing we will not always agree, Paul still tells us to agree with one another."

Not only is this statement untrue and nowhere can be confirmed in Scripture, it is also self-refuting. If *Paul* knew we would always disagree, how can he tell us, under divine inspiration, to agree *(if he commands agreement, he cannot mean merely acting like we agree for this constitutes pretense)*? This is a contradiction of the most obvious and extreme kind. Actually, the true church does agree. True believers are already in accordance with the *Word of God.* True, there may be some disagreement on non-essentials, but nothing that would constitute denouncing a ministry as apostate. I denounce *Healing Place* not because I refuse unity, but because they refuse unity with the Scriptures.

"I understand that Dino has not written you back on these matters. I also understand he does not want to fight or argue so as to be in compliance with the word of God...Could it be fighting and arguing with other churches could be another hindrance that he wants to avoid?"

I do not propose to know exactly why *Mr. Rizzo* has not responded to my open-letter, but regardless, he is inexcusably wrong. In regards to his testimony, responding to my letter via e-

mail or post hardly constitutes public fighting and arguing, though neither is forbidden in the Scriptures if it is done in defense of the gospel *(Acts 17:17; Jude 1:3)*. Mr. Rizzo acts as if he is above correction and refuses to simply offer a Scriptural defense of his message and methods. This is nothing like the example *Jesus* or the Apostles displayed; both *Jesus* and the *Apostles* even answered the *Pharisees (at least once)*. In fact, to suggest that refraining from offering a Biblical answer/defense when we are asked is somehow "*godly",* is to turn the very definition of "*godly"* on its head.

"People need Jesus, not doctrinal beliefs."

This may sound spiritual, but it is demonstrably irrational and quite frankly, stupid. *Doctrine*, true or false, is nothing more than men teaching and communicating what they deem as Biblical truth. In a phrase, *doctrine* is *teaching*. In fact, your statement above, as false and self-refuting as it is, constitutes part of what you believe and teach. In other words, it is your *doctrine*. So, in a strange twist of logic, you are using *your doctrine* in an attempt to teach me that people don't need *doctrine*.

Actually, no one can know *Jesus* apart from doctrine. The preaching of the gospel demands we use doctrine. If people do not have the gospel they obviously cannot believe in *Jesus (Rom 10:14)*. So, yes Bobby, contrary to your absurd assertion, people do indeed need doctrine. And, for future reference, you will not find the *Holy Ghost*, not even once, attacking sound doctrine in the Scriptures; never. In fact, the Scriptures teach that sound doctrine is an essential cog in the life of those who are spiritually healthy...

"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." (1 Timothy 4:16)

On the other hand, the Scriptures teach true preaching requires *doctrine* and warns that it will be the apostates who despise it...

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Timothy 4:2-4)

"I have seen so many times people take what was not for them and think that it is not for anybody."

Invalid point. The areas of disobedience I charge *Healing Place* with are all grounded in N.T. commands which universally obligate all Christians, these are not personal convictions.

"You will not get them saved by condemning them, yelling at them or telling them what they cannot do."

Terrible. Bobby, do you realize who you condemn by such childish generalizations? Do you actually read your Bible? Have you ever considered that many Biblical examples of both *Jesus* and the *Apostles* contain language which could be considered condemning, loud, and filled with instruction about *what men cannot do (see attached, "The Crisis of Conviction", "The Four Pillars of False Evangelism"," The Natural State of Sinners Before God", "True Biblical Evangelism", "The Everlasting Gospel", "Parable of the Burning Man").*

Notice what *Jesus* said about His own ministry and why sinners *(the world)* rejected Him *(Jn 1:10; 15:18)*...

"The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil." -(John 7:7)

According to your extra Biblical mandate, it appears *Jesus, the Master Evangelist,* practiced what you deem inappropriate evangelistic methods by apparently condemning His hearers and their works as *evil.*

You assume it is unwise to lift the voice, but the Bible says otherwise...

"Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying, How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you." (Proverbs 1:20-23)

And, may I remind you, telling men what they *can* and *cannot do* is part of the *Great Commission*...

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20)

I warn you, Bobby, you should soberly reconsider your idea of what the gospel presentation actually is, as your humanistic interpretation is a terrible misrepresentation. You obviously have little or no understanding regarding true, Biblical evangelism.

"We were commanded to preach the gospel. The gospel is the, 'GOOD NEWS'."

Yes, we are to preach, but remember, *Jesus* told us if we actually do so, the world would hate and persecute us. And, true, the gospel is "*good news",* but not because sinners will think it is positive and inoffensive, but because it is, in actuality, *good*, *true*, and *righteous*. We are not to *market Christ*, but *preach Christ*. Though the seeker-sensitive movement has confused these two, there is a vast difference.

"However, he also understands it is more about getting Jesus in their hearts first rather than telling them what to do."

I am curious; can you provide any Scriptural authority for such strange and ridiculous ideas? No one can actually *"get Jesus"* without someone telling them what to do, Bobby. The Scriptures, testifying of themselves, clearly establish that their use is for *"doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction" (2 Tim 3:16),* things you mindlessly seem to take exception to. Can people *"get Jesus"* apart from the Scriptures? Moreover*, the law (which primarily tells men, among other things, what to do)* is a schoolmaster that leads men to Christ *(Gal 3:24-25)*. Preaching the law as the grounds to inform and humble sinners is therefore essential in gospel declaration *(Rom 3:20; 1 Tim 1:8-11)*, yet you say *Dino* is wise because he assumes, contrary to the Scriptures and sound reason, that men can *"get Jesus"* apart from being told *"what to do"*. It is statements like these that confirm that ministries like *Healing Place* and the insidious doctrines they propagate must be boldly challenged.

And, one final question regarding this thought: *if you propose that telling men what to do is spiritually counterproductive, why do you seek to tell me what to do?*

"Therefore, I see love being the center of Christianity."

This is true, but what is *love* and how do we know we possess it? Here are two relevant examples...

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (1 John 5:3)

Men who claim to love God, no matter what they may do and who they may impress, do not love God if they violate the commands of God. Next...

"Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." (Leviticus 19:17-18, incidentally, this is the second love command, of the two greatest, that Jesus quoted and re-established under the new covenant)

Thus, according to the *second command of love*, we should not allow our neighbor to sin without confrontation because this would be unloving.

So, Bobby, by keeping the commandments of God and warning those who don't, how am I somehow violating Christian love?

"I noticed what Jesus did when the Pharisee's started trying to put Jesus in an argument with John (John 4:3) Jesus left! That is what Dino has done with the argument. Left it. This seems very doctrinal to me."

Bobby, I must admit, I am utterly amazed at the liberty you take with God's holy writ. Not that your assertion actually proves anything, but there is absolutely nothing at all in the text that suggests *Jesus* left *Judaea* for any other reason than He knew the Pharisees were jealous and sought an occasion to take His life *(before the appointed time)*, and even then, I am speculating to some degree. We do well to take great care in handling *God's Word*, lest we carelessly impose our own opinions on the eternal Scriptures. May we soberly, with fear and trembling, interpret Scripture by Scripture, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things *(1 Cor 2:13)*. Out of curiosity, I consulted several well respected commentaries, including *Matthew Henry*, *Adam Clark, John Nelson Darby*, and *John Wesley.* Predictably, not one of these esteemed voices offered anything close to your interpretation of the text. This is a classic example of extreme isogesis, or reading into the text to verify one's own theological presuppositions.

"Romans 16:17-18 Watch out for those who cause divisions, avoid them. For such persons do not serve the Lord."

Bobby, you are either using a corrupt translation of the Scriptures or you conveniently avoided quoting the entire context of *Romans 16:17*, which reads...

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences <u>contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned</u>; and avoid them." (Romans 16:17)

Strangely enough, I am practicing this verse, not disobeying it. It is not I who am guilty of unscriptural division, but *Healing Place,* as they refuse to conform to Apostolic doctrine. They should repent and come under Biblical authority and then we would be in one mind and one accord.

"Are you causing divisions?"

Yes, I am causing division, the *Jesus*-kind-of division *(Jn 7:43)*, of which I am not ashamed.

"In Romans, when speaking of meat, it says if a man believes it is right then it is right. If he believes it is wrong, it is wrong."

Romans 14 clearly addresses personal convictions and not violation of the moral law. God's moral law, as a reflection of His holy character, is both eternal and immutable. It cannot change any more than God could change *(Mal 3:6)*. Throughout the N.T. we are taught that the moral law, established by the two love commands of Christ *(Matt 22:40),* is binding upon all Christians and no one can negate it by personal opinion or preference *(believing it is right or wrong)*. The issues I have presented in my reproof of *Healing Place* are violations of God's moral law, not personal conviction. Therefore, your reckless application of *Romans 14* is an invalid point.

"Romans 12:4 All members not of the same office."

I am unsure of your point here, but even if *Healing Place* is called to a *"different office"*, they are certainly not called to a different gospel, a different spirit, and a different God. Regardless of what and how they are called, they do not have liberty to disobey the Bible, which is what they are clearly doing and must repent or likewise perish.

"With all respect, it was people like you and your ministry who always ran me away from God whenever I was looking for Him."

With all due respect, Bobby, when you were a sinner you never sought after God one day in your life.

"There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." (Romans 3:11)

If indeed you are truly born of God *(and I hope and pray that you are)*, it is only because God convicted and awakened you by His Spirit *(Jn 6:65)*. I certainly don't claim to know your history, however, if, as you say, you *"ran away from God because of people like me and my ministry"*, it must have been simply because you hated and despised the *Word of God*, because that is all we do: *preach the Word of God*.

"Jesus said, 'Come as you are'. That is what I needed and that is what a hurting worlds needs!"

Jesus said no such thing—never. Indeed, this is the "*gospel*" God-haters desire and this is what anti-christs will give them, but this is not the gospel preached by *Jesus.* To be frank, this is an appalling misrepresentation of the message *Jesus* communicated. It is an outright and grievous lie which strips the gospel of the need for *repentance (see "The Test of Genuine Repentance, "The Four Pillars of False Evangelism", and "The Parable of the Drug Dealer")*, which *Jesus* clearly framed as a condition to be converted *(Lk 13:3)*. True, no one can actually turn from sin without first turning to God, but to suggest that we can merely come as we are to *Christ* is a gross distortion of the gospel. No one comes as they are, all must come humble, broken, repentant, and willing to utterly abandon all sin to follow *Jesus*.

Jesus declared...

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?" *(Luke 9:23-25)*

Hardly the words of someone trying to communicate "*come as you are*".

"With all respect, when we take what God is doing and attribute it to the devil, that is blasphemy."

You express two absolutes here that I agree with: (1) Being so spiritually blind as to attribute the work of the *Holy Ghost* to the devil reveals a reprobate mind, and (2) this basically constitutes blasphemy. With these two truths I agree. However, *Healing Place* is obviously and brazenly disobeying the Bible, and therefore, under the influence of Satan. Hence I have nothing to fear, as exposing their false teaching is the will of God *(Acts 20:29-31; 1 Tim 5:20)*.

Again, Bobby, I know exactly what I am doing and continue to do it brashly because I utterly hate the false gospel *Healing Place* preaches and so does God. Your letter and the dangerous and grossly unscriptural reasoning communicated therein actually confirm how urgent it is that everyone be warned.

"I cannot help but think of the scripture in the first chapter of Philippians. They did not preach the whole truth of Jesus. Maybe even had some bad motives. Paul said I do not care, as long as Christ is preached, I am happy. Are you greater than Paul? If the Bible clearly states to not stop them, why do you attempt to stop them?"

Again, your violation of the simple rules of Biblical exegesis is alarming. You are reading into the text principles that violate the clear teaching of the N.T. and the practices of the Apostle himself. To suggest *Philippians 1:18* teaches Christians must *"rejoice"* rather than expose and separate from false teaching is a gross misapplication of this passage. What does it mean, then? Please carefully consider the proper exegesis...

"Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice." (Philip 1:15-18)

To come to a proper understanding of this passage we must, as always, rightly divide the Word of truth by *comparing spiritual things with spiritual*. This is fundamental to proper Biblical exegesis. Sadly, many have mistakenly used this passage, and particularly verse 18, as a proof-

text in chastising those of us who oppose the apostate church with its many false gospels. They insist we should *"rejoice"* as they mindlessly assume the *Apostle Paul "rejoiced"* over the *preaching and message* of the *"pretense preachers"* of his day. However, before we arrive at this simplistic conclusion we would be wise to consider several points:

[1] Regarding counterfeit spirituality, the tenor and tone of the N.T., and the Bible in general, is one of condemnation. False, counterfeit Christianity, its message, and its messengers are to be judged, exposed, and if they refuse to repent, avoided *(Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Thess. 3:14; Titus 3:10-11; 2 John 1:9-10; etc.).* Rarely, if ever, are we instructed to overlook religious error, but in fact, are many times commanded to judge, prove, expose, and if need be, separate from all error *(John 10:12-13; 2 Cor. 11:13; Philip. 3:2; Jude 1:3; 1 John 4:1).* Moreover, this was the consistent example of the *Apostle Paul* as revealed throughout the N.T. *(Acts 20:29-31; 2 Cor. 11:13; Gal. 1:7, 2:4; Col. 2:8; 1 Tim. 1:4-7, 4:1-3, 6:3; 2 Tim. 3:5, 4:3, etc.).* Not only this, but the *Apostle* often exposed men by name *(1 Tim. 1:20, 2 Tim. 4:10, 2:17-18; etc.).* He even withstood the *Apostle Peter* publicly for error because as *Paul* explained, *"he was to be blamed" (Gal. 2:11).* Of course, we are speaking of heresy *(alterations of gospel truth that could eternally affect souls, for example, Catholicism, as it is a different gospel)* and not mere theological differences over non-essentials. Considering these facts, it is difficult to believe the *Apostle Paul* was taking a passive stance toward these hypocritical teachers. Do we suppose that if he had spoken directly to these *"pretense preachers"* he would have offered them encouragement by exclaiming, *"I rejoice in your preaching"*? Or course not. We thus conclude that the Holy Ghost would never ask us to "rejoice" over a flawed gospel. This is confirmed by none other than the *Apostle Paul* as he was inspired to declare that charity, or love...

"Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth..." (1 Cor 13:6)

Hence, although *Philippians 1:18* teaches us that the *Apostle Paul* actually "rejoiced", it is doubtful, if not impossible, that he "rejoiced" over the *messenger, message, or method* of the named "pretense preachers" as this would be unloving.

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." (Galatians 1:8-10)

[2] It is fruitless to discuss the merits of *Healing Place (and churches like HP)* and God's use of it without first making a distinction between God's use of an ordained and sanctified vessel/method as opposed to His providential or sovereign use of something other to accomplish His purposes in individual lives, families, nations, etc. The Bible clearly teaches that God's Church, the Body of Christ, is His chosen vessel to whom He has given the distinct purpose of manifesting Christ *(Mk. 16:15; 1 Tim. 3:15).* Likewise, the "*preaching of the*

gospel" (remember, preaching is narrowly defined by Biblical precept and example) is His ordained means and method for this purpose *(Titus 1:3)*. God never steps outside of this order, meaning, he will not ordain, bless, or anoint another pattern. However, we certainly believe that God, in His sovereignty, can use many, if not all things, to accomplish His perfect will in human affairs without divinely ordaining, blessing, or otherwise endorsing such things. For example, the Bible declares that the "*way of a transgressor is hard".* The sinful life is often difficult and sin brings many a man into a terrible and desperate state. Such was the case with many of us as the wages of sin humbled us and brought us to a place of desperation. Without this, many of us would never have looked outside of ourselves for answers. Nevertheless, it could not be said that God ordains or blesses the use of "*sin"* to humble sinners. Several years ago, a young woman came to our church in desperation because her husband had left her. Eventually, this experience contributed to her conversion as her situation humbled and broke her to a degree that she had before never experienced. However, we know God did not ordain or lead her husband to leave her for the purpose of preparing her for the gospel. He simply turned what was *evil* into something *profitable* as this desperate young lady cried out to Him for answers *(Rom. 8:28-29)*. Likewise, we obviously concede the possibility of some tender-hearted sinner, perhaps desperate in spirit, attending *Healing Place* or one of its para-church ministries and being compelled to investigate the Bible for deeper truth. However, this does not mean we should encourage sinners to submit to the mixture of *Healing Place* or the seeker-sensitive movement in general. It certainly doesn't mean we should promote and cultivate an interest in such apostate movements. But yes, we could *rejoice* in the case of someone, somewhere, perhaps being provoked to seek the full-gospel, yet, this is no more an endorsement for *Healing Place* than it is an endorsement for *sin.* Likewise, I believe the *Apostle Paul* was not rejoicing over the *messengers or message* of the "*pretense preachers"* but over the fact that some were apparently compelled to investigate *Jesus Christ* <u>*in spite of, not because of*</u> the "*pretense preachers"* and their defiled message. This is our position with *Healing Place (and churches like HP).* Some may come to repentance but it will be *in spite of,* instead of *because of* the ministry of *Healing Place*. We will not rejoice over a misrepresentation of *Jesus Christ,* but rather, we will warn all Christians against it.

[3] Are we to assume, as apparently so many do, that "*rejoice"* means to both *overlook* and *endorse*? Even if we conclude that the *Apostle Paul* did literally "*rejoice"* because of the ministry of the "*pretense preachers" (as we have established that it is doubtful that he did)*, surely he would not have wholeheartedly endorsed their message, encouraged sinners to hear their preaching, and God forbid, instructed other *Philippian* Christians to submit to their teaching. However, this is precisely what you are suggesting regarding *Healing Place.* However, the Scriptures teach nowhere that I, as an elder in the Body of Christ, should overlook error and rejoice in heresy—nowhere. It is important for us to note, though the *Apostle* certainly *"rejoices"* in *Philip. 1*, his very words also expose the *"pretense preachers"* for what they were, insincere hypocrites.

[4] The false application of this Scripture passage as a defense of *Healing Place,* if applied consistently, forces you into a very precarious position. Think about it, Bobby, by your

interpretation and application of this passage, you are admonishing men like me to *"rejoice"* while you violate your own counsel.

What of my position? I believe I am *"contending for the faith once delivered to the saints."* Am I judgmental? Yes. Am I intolerant? Absolutely, *(intolerant of anything/everything outside of Christ and His Word)*. Am I critical? Of course, I am *(consumed, no possessed, with a critical Spirit, His name is the Holy Ghost)*. Am I open-minded? Never *(I am given over to a narrow mind).* Yet, for all my perceived faults, I am nevertheless, consistent. Blessed consistency, a mark of those that walk in the light. On the other hand, you and your ilk are anything but consistent. *"How?"* you ask. Allow me to continue. As I judge, prove, and expose *Healing Place* you wax defensive as you confidently turn to your misapplied proof-text...

"The spiritual thing to do would be REJOICE" you instruct. "*Just like the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:18. See! He rejoiced when those he disagreed with preached. He didn't debate, or expose, or seek to Scripturally correct those with whom he disagreed. He simply rejoiced!"* you victoriously proclaim.

But don't you see, Bobby? <u>According to your interpretation</u> of *Philippians 1:18*, I am very much like the "*pretense preachers"* of *Paul's* day. Apparently, I am misguided, preaching, unbeknownst to me, out of an impure motive. I am, according to you, unnecessarily stirring up strife and creating trouble. Like the "*pretense preachers"* of *Philippians,* you have no choice but to believe we preach Christ out of "*envy, strife*, and *contention"*. Of course, remember, we still preach Christ: *that Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died at Calvary to redeem mankind, and rose from the dead*. Surely, our gospel is at least as accurate as the *pretense preachers* of *Paul's* day, true? Now, this being so, why don't you obey your own counsel? Why don't you submit to your own sermon? Why are you attempting to correct me?

Incidentally, as you are too spiritually dull to recognize the obvious *(i.e., Healing Place is anti-Christ and apostate)* it should be no surprise that you march boldly forward without realizing the subtle and damning inconsistencies of your position.

"I would ask that you stop coming against these ministries and the work of God."

No. *Healing Place* is not *"the work of God"*, but rather a false ministry and should be exposed. As long as I have breath I will expose this work of anti-christ and warn others of the false gospel they preach.

"But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand." (Ezekiel 33:6)

"It is impossible to preach Christ except thou preach against AntiChrist" — William Tyndale

Finally, I know I have written some pointed words above, but what I write, I write in love. I do this because the situation is crucial and you are obviously under the influence of this false spirit. May God awaken you to the great spiritual danger you are under and trouble you with the many Scriptural points made in this response.

If you so desire, I would be delighted to speak with you further about this topic either on the phone or in person. May the truth prevail!

Much love in *Christ*,
-B.W.