

The “New Codes”

A Dividing Line for Davidian S. D. A.’s

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”
— **Isaiah 1:18**

A Response to Mountain Dale’s Defense of the “New Codes” Published by Florence Houteff:

“Can the New Codes (Published After 1955) Be Validated?”

Foremost on the minds of all present truth believers worldwide:

- Does “teach only that which is published” also include unwritten or verbal sermon addresses by Brother Houteff?
- Why is it that Brother V. T. Houteff did not publish these alleged sermons while he was still alive from the years of 1936 to 1945, ten (10) years before his death in 1955?
- Is addition and subtraction to the golden bowl a salvation issue?
- Hopefully and prayerfully the above questions will be adequately addressed after we finish with this article.

Before we embark to the main point of this reply, may the Holy Spirit be in the midst of us as we familiarize ourselves with the meaning of the following three phrases to help us understand their context more fully as we read along.

What are the “New Codes”?

The “New Codes” refer to the Symbolic Codes that were published by Florence Houteff without written authorization after the death of her husband in February 1955 (*The Symbolic Code*, Vol. 10, No. 7 to Vol. 13, Nos. 11, 12). These Codes allegedly contain selected verbal sermon addresses that were given by Brother Houteff from the years of 1936 to 1945. (**Please note:** Brother Victor T. Houteff, the author of the Shepherd’s Rod

message lived ten more years after these alleged sermons were given, yet he did not publish any of them. Furthermore, after his death in 1955, there is no written record to be found giving authorization for anyone to publish these “reported” verbal sermons.)

What are the “Old Codes”

The phrase, “Old Codes” refer to the series of publications called *The Symbolic Code* that were published by the late Brother Victor T. Houteff from 1936 to 1954 numbered Vol. 1, No. 1 to Vol. 10, No. 2. For a link to see the digital scans of these original Symbolic Codes, please click here: <http://www.upa7.org/old-codes-scans.html>

What are the Card Files?

The “card files” were established during the days of Brother Houteff and contained his answers to common questions that came into the office regarding the teachings of the *Rod* message. These answers were typed out on separate index cards and placed in a filing drawer for easy access. A secretary in charge of correspondence would consult the “card files” to provide quick reference to answers to many questions that came into the office daily and in this way relieving Brother Houteff from having to respond to each inquiry individually. These “card files” were never meant or used to record any of the alleged sermons given by Brother Houteff and published many years later by the wife Florence in her “New Codes”.

Introduction:

God who redeemed us with the blood of His only begotten Son and loves us so much wants us to be united.

“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [There is] one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all.” — **Ephesians 4:3-6**

But Why are We Divided?

For over a decade, the question of whether the sermon addresses of Brother V. T. Houteff published after his death in 1955 by Florence Houteff in the “New Codes”, should be considered part of the authorized *Shepherd’s Rod* message, has been one of much contention amongst Davidian Seventh-day Adventists (DSDA’s). If you are not familiar

with the terms; “New Codes”, “Old Codes”, and “card files” please go to Appendix A at the end of this study.

In May of 2009, *upa7.org* made their stand in opposing the “New Codes” as part of the inspired canon of the original *SRod* message and published a study on their website, (<http://www.upa7.org/PDFs/NewCodes-Not-publish.pdf>). This position is in agreement with several other brethren from different groups whose prior investigations served as a model for our study. One can also find this research at the following websites:

- http://www.davidiansda.org/new_codes_or_false_codes.htm,
- <http://www.hearyetherod.org/page4.html>)

Based on their own investigations, there are also many brethren scattered throughout the vineyard, independent of *upa7.org*, who have come to the same conclusion opposing the “New Codes” with these published studies. However, response from the organized Associations (Salem, Mountain Dale, Waco) that continue to uphold these “New Codes” as part of the *Shepherd’s Rod* message has been slow in coming.

Recently, we received a forwarded PDF document, which contained a response to our study from the Mountain Dale (MD) Association. We from *upa7.org* wish to reply to those major points which contradicts the original *Shepherd’s Rod* writings by Brother Houteff listed as follows:

Summary Points of Concern From The Mountain Dale Response:

1. Fails to provide *written* documentation to conclusively prove that Brother Houteff gave *authorization* to publish his pre-1946 sermon addresses in the “New Codes” or any other publishing medium.
2. Fails to provide written documented evidence that the verbal sermons given by Brother Houteff from 1934 to 1945 were ever recorded word for word in the “card files”.
3. Fails to harmonize at least five major contradictions between the “New Code” sermons with teachings found in the **original** *Shepherd’s Rod* message, for example, the ones listed below:¹

¹ See the original study at the following link: <http://whyperish.org/2012/01/presentations-of-the-new-codes-teach-only-that-which-is-published/>

- The Time of Jacob's Trouble
- The Timing of the Sixth (6th) Trumpet
- Opposing the Assyrian Confederacy
- The "Jonah Phase" of the message
- Where Jesus spent the three days and three nights.

The Mountain Dale Response Misleads Its Readers by:

- Redefining the word "publish" to fit their preconceived ideas by using a worldly dictionary and, as a result, *adding* a meaning outside of the *Shepherd's Rod* author's original intent, specifically, "*teach only that which is published*" which, according to Mountain Dale means, not only in written form, but also the unrecorded verbal communication (hearing only).
- Assuming that the New Codes' sermons given prior to 1946 were recorded on "card files" without providing any evidence of such a claim, i.e., digitally scanned originals, etc. Without providing any written evidence, Mountain Dale leads its followers to believe that the so called "New Codes" sermons are part of the original authorized *Shepherd's Rod* message.
- Failing to provide a written document to demonstrate that Brother Houteff himself *authorized* to publish the sermon addresses, which he gave in the years (1934-45) prior to the publication of the *Timely Greetings* series, which commenced in 1946.
- In justifying their severely flawed arguments, Mountain Dale resorts to attacking the character and motives of those who do not believe that the "New Codes" are part of the inspired *SRod* message as; "extremists", "fanatical", illogical bait hunters, narrow and dogmatic. They further divert the minds of the innocents by suggesting that those who oppose the "New Codes" are resorting to elaborate schemes championed by the Jesuits.
- Claiming that there are many witnesses, who only heard these sermons verbally, but can somehow after many years recall their contents in great detail. Therefore, according to Mountain Dale, it is permissible for them to use undocumented hearsay sermons.
- Mountain Dale fails to mention that all of these witnesses are long deceased except for one surviving witness who was but a mere child from six to fourteen years of age when most of these claimed sermons were delivered and who shares the handed down story verbally with no written record to support her argument.

"God gives sufficient evidence for the candid mind to believe; but he who turns from the weight of evidence because there are a few things which he cannot make plain to his finite understanding will be left in the cold, chilling atmosphere of unbelief and questioning doubts, and will make shipwreck of faith." — **Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 675**

How do we understand the word “publish”?

The principal argument Mountain Dale seeks to redefine the word, “publish” to fit with their own preconceived ideas, which contradicts *The Shepherd's Rod* author's original intended meaning (see: 3 SC 3,4:16; 7 SC 7-12:21, cited below). Specifically, according to a worldly dictionary the word “publish” now includes oral presentations (not written) in the form of unrecorded sermon addresses. This reasoning is not based on sound Biblical principle.

- By so doing, Mountain Dale places a worldly dictionary *over* the Holy Word of God and the writings of Brother Houteff. *The Shepherd's Rod* intended use of the word “publish”, which means in a “written form”, should be the sole criteria to determine whether this included verbal addresses or not and, if it did, then there should be a clear mechanism or process by which the verbal address was recorded and converted into printed text, some written format. (Fortunately, we have a reliable guide found in the original published *Shepherd's Rod* message itself, historical records and written testimonies as to exactly how this was accomplished that will be discussed later in this paper.)
- As far as our knowledge of the *Shepherd's Rod* message and what our extensive research has confirmed, there is no evidence or proof that the sermon addresses given by Brother Houteff in the years prior to the publication of the *Timely Greetings* series were actually recorded and preserved in the “card files”. Moreover, the whole platform of the Mountain Dale argument is based upon these alleged sermon addresses being preserved in the “card files” of which are all together non-existing. This leads one to believe that such reasoning is purposed to satisfy their preconceived idea that “The Time of Jacob's Trouble” takes place before Ezekiel 9. Tragically this allures many naive Davidians, especially those who learn on the arm of flesh for their knowledge, to believe and follow a myth created by Florence Houteff.
- Since Mountain Dale cannot produce concrete evidence to support the “New Codes”, they divert from the subject and carelessly concluded that their addition of *The Shepherd's Rod* message is somehow “not a salvation issue”. Those who have discernment know without a doubt that this suggestion is not of God.

Conclusively, not only for the unity and uniformity of the message in our midst, but foremost of all, in order to end this long winding road of contradictions amongst God's special people of whom many of us, especially the innocent ones, are still in darkness even up to this present time. Therefore, it is imperative that we . . .

“Teach Only That Which is Published”

Divinely imparted to the prophet without addition nor subtraction
and
not according to private interpretation

Question No. 133:

"The Symbolic Code" says: "Teach only that which is published. Will you please explain whether this restriction is Intended to include Bible, Spirit of Prophecy, and "The Shepherd's Rod" literature, all together, or just the writings of the "Rod"?"

"Answer: The Bible and the books of the *Spirit of Prophecy* being the sole source of *The Shepherd's Rod* message, therefore when the Rod is taught, the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy are taught.... As we dare not follow in such a path, we must therefore, as teachers of *The Shepherd's Rod* (the official publications of the Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Association), teach only in the light of the Rod those passages which in one way or another need to be interpreted. Thus only will all Present-truth believers ever become of the same mind, seeing eye to eye and speaking the same things (1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Pet. 3:8; Isa. 52:8)." — **Answerer Book No. 5, pp. 55, 56.**

The above answer from inspiration as stated, “The Bible and the **books** of the Spirit of Prophecy being the sole source of *The Shepherd's Rod* message . . .”. It says the Bible *and* the **books** of the Spirit of Prophecy are the source of *The Shepherd's Rod* message, no more, no less! It **does not** state the Bible *or* the Spirit of Prophecy (SOP) as given in sermons and recorded in non-existing “card files”. The passage must be taken by exactly what it means and states, the Bible printed with ink on paper and the SOP books. It does **not** tell us anywhere to include Brother Houteff’s nonexistent *verbal* sermon addresses recorded in “card files”.

What is remarkable, yet truly tragic in its implications, is that at a point in the Mountain Dale response they mock the author of the *upa7.org* paper opposing the “New Codes” as somehow “padding” their writings with many unnecessary references only repeating a point that we supposedly all agree upon. To be clear the author of the said study cited many inspired passages (1 SC 4:1; 1 SC 7:5, 6; 4 SC 1-5:3. 2 SC 12:11. GCS 35, 3 SC 5, 6:14; 3 SC 3, 4:13) to make absolutely plain what the phrase means, “*teach only that which is published*”, according to the author’s original intent, that is, in *writing*, not verbally, the original *books and tracts* published only by Brother V. T. Houteff from 1930 to 1954 known as *The Shepherd's Rod* message. Apparently the author of the Mountain Dale paper does *not* really believe what Brother Houteff published, or if they do, they would not have

ignored these many passages and attempt to *redefine* the word “publish” according to their own preconceived bias, resulting in a direct contradiction with what is *written* in the golden bowl.

“To take from an author's writings, as the basis of a subject, one statement independent of all others pertaining to it, is not just, unless it is so warranted by the author himself.” — **Symbolic Code, No. 3, Nos. 3, 4, p. 16**

Below are further counseled from the golden bowl:

“So it is with the Bible when one looks at a subject from a standpoint foreign to the author's. He finds discrepancies in the position held by the one who sees the subject through the author's eyes. In order consequently, to maintain the false idea resulting from his foreign point of view, he is led to resort to *outside sources*: to one commentator or the other; to this version or to that; to *technicalities and inferences of language*: in the Greek, in the Hebrew, in this, in that, or in the other (languages, none of which it is likely he himself either reads or writes); or to referring to this or that so-called original manuscript (which in all probability he has never seen).

At the end of this long winding road, he has succeeded only in magnifying from a mole hill to a mountain one passage of scripture, and in reducing from a mountain to a mole hill, or entirely setting aside, another passage of scripture, all because the Bible, which the Lord has placed in his hands, does not support his idea. These *pretentious procedures* are calculated to demonstrate his scholarly attainments in the hope of lending to his false idea such an appearance of authority as to compel their acceptance by all who come in contact with his theory.” — **Tract No. 3, p. 106**

The above reference in Tract No. 3 simply tells us that if we are reading a message from God and it does not fit to our own understanding, we are *not* to go to outside sources, or to use words from different languages, or by so doing, it will lead us astray, rather we must fit the Bible to our understanding. Therefore, brethren let us study to show ourselves approved unto God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

“Though under the lens of Sister White's writings, the doctrine of the Kingdom may not appear the same as under the lens of the Rod, one dare not thus superficially reject either, but must studiously compare both views of the doctrine under the super lens of the Bible. We are not, accordingly, given license to harmonize the Bible with any other writings, but are charged to measure all others with It.

First of all, in order to do justice to the Scriptures, to Sister White's writings, and to the Rod, each must be viewed in the light of the circumstances calling them forth." — **Symbolic Code, No. 7, Nos. 7-12, p. 21**

"As It is Written"

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." — **Matthew 4:4**

When Jesus our Lord and Savior and our ultimate example responded to the enemy, He would always say: "As it is written . . ." In contrast, the Mountain Dale article defending the "New Codes" suggests that it is acceptable for us as Davidians to practice the *Shepherd's Rod* message believing what other people had heard in the past, without any written evidence. How can this unsupported reasoning harmonize with the following inspired passage, which counsels the wise to "let not *a line* escape your attention, study *every word* carefully and prayerfully"? How much more are we, as empty vessels of clay, not needing a "written form" to follow and obey? Saints, this is something to be given a serious thought to ponder upon, most especially to take it to the Lord in your prayers and supplications. This is not a joke, but a matter of soul salvation. For the soul saved, may be your own.

"Now the only safe and sane procedure is to read closely every page of the solemn message contained herein. *Let not a line escape your attention. Study every word carefully and prayerfully.* Be an earnest and diligent student of the Truth. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." 1 Thess. 5:21." — **Tract No. 4, p. 7.1**, see also **Answerer Book, No. 5, p. 29**

Some Further Historical Insights

Evidences how Brother Houteff published his sermon addresses in written form.

By way of historical records, we need to examine some of the relevant facts as to how Brother Houteff actually converted his sermon addresses into printed tracts known as the *Timely Greetings (TG's)*. First, we will review some important dates as to the development of the published work that took place at old Mt. Carmel Center, Waco, Texas under the direction of Brother V. T. Houteff.

1. July 15, 1934 *The Symbolic Code* as an authorized series published by V. T. Houteff commenced as a three page newsletter printed on US letter size paper (8.5 in. x 11 in.) starting with Vol. 1, No. 1.
2. February 15, 1936, starting with Vol. 1, No. 3, *The Symbolic Code* changed to a newsletter printed on US legal size paper (8.5 in. x 14 in.) and remained in this format until Vol. 2, No. 2. The length of the newsletter had expanded up to 10-12 pages.
3. In March of 1936 *The Symbolic Code* (Vol. 2, Nos. 3, 4) was completely redesigned and laid out in a professional two-column magazine style format with a nice divinely inspired, wonderfully graphic and information rich cover artwork. This format continued on until the *Codes* ceased their publication in December of 1943 with Vol. 9, Nos. 1-12. According to the best evidence obtained from multiple sources, *The Symbolic Code* ceased publication to make way for the publication of the *Timely Greeting* series which commenced in 1946.
4. The *Timely Greetings* series commenced on August 3, 1946 and concluded on April 22, 1950. The process by which a sermon address given by Brother Houteff was converted into printed tract is well defined and documented. First, the sermon was recorded in short hand by Florence Houteff who was an expert stenographer and with a photographic memory. Next, it was transcribed into a typed manuscript draft copy that was submitted to Brother Houteff, and most likely others, for correction/revision. A corrected draft was then typeset to generate a galley proof which then was subject to a final proofreading before being used to print quantities of the *Timely Greetings (TG)* tract. These sermon addresses were initially sent out on a weekly basis by the tens of thousands throughout Laodicea as the leaves of autumn. By the grace of God and His enduring mercies towards His people, samples of these original publications are preserved in many locations throughout the Adventist world, which were sent to them under the direction of Brother V. T. Houteff.
5. Providentially, digital scans of the above mentioned *Shepherd's Rod* tracts have been completed and published by *upa7.org* website and are readily available to all interested parties worldwide via the internet or CD-ROM. Significantly, a manuscript version of the sermons given in TG Vol. 1, Nos. 1-20 have been digitally scanned and are available for all to see at the following link (<http://www.upa7.org/PDFs/Older-Editions/1TG-1stEd-lett.pdf>). Thus the entire process by which a sermon of Brother Houteff was converted into a published tract is well defined with ample evidence in stark contrast to the unconfirmed reports as to how the "New Code" sermons came into print.
6. On September 1954 the *Symbolic Code* resumed publication with Vol. 10, No. 1 and concluded in December 1954 with Vol. 10, No. 2. This represents that last work authorized and printed under the direction of Brother Houteff. These last two *Codes* took on a format having the same size as a *TG* tract (4 in. x 6.25 in.) with the divinely inspired icon on the front cover showing the Bible, a rod, a lamb, a wave sheaf, a

trumpet arranged over a portion of the 11th hour clock. This is the same format that Florence Houteff used as she continued to publish the *Codes* after the death of Brother Houteff starting with Vol. 10, No. 7. Thus, it is easy to see how many Davidians were tempted to take these *unauthorized* New Codes as part of the inspired canon of the *Shepherd's Rod* message since they looked the same as the original. For a more detailed review on how Florence Houteff systematically remodeled the entire *SRod* message starting with the 2 TG 23, 24 and *The Symbolic Code* in an effort to destroy the original *Shepherd's Rod* message, please view the presentation and all the evidences provided at the following link (<http://player.vimeo.com/video/57591451>), especially presentations Parts 4 and 5, "The Davidian Knockout Blow: A Blessing In Disguise" and "Remodeling the Shepherd's Rod."

7. To God be all the glory for His unconditional love, enduring mercy, and all sufficient grace to His beloved people has He providentially opened the door for digital scans of this entire collection of the "Old Codes" published by Brother Houteff only, to be acquired and now made available for the first time worldwide through the internet for preview by all interested parties. The exact typeset reproduction of these Codes has been available for anyone to print from their own computer since April of 2009 at the following link (<http://www.upa7.org/symbolic-codes.html>).

Is Addition to the Golden Bowl "Not a salvation issue?"

Should the verses below from Revelation 22:16-19 also be applied to the *Shepherd's Rod* Message? We believe they do.

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book." **Revelation 22:16-19**

THE SYMBOLIC CODE

Vol. 10

No. 1



September, 1954

PREPARATION FOR ALL-OUT EFFORT.	3
FEAR OF LIGHT REAL TRAGEDY.	7
INTERVIEW WITH FIELD WORKER REVEALS ADVANCEMENT -- WITH	8
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YOUR NEED FOR CERTIFICATE OF FELLOWSHIP	12
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- It is important to recognize at this point that with such an efficient and well defined operation by which a sermon addresses given by Brother Houteff could be transformed into a printed tract on the order of a week or two, then why did the prophet not publish the sermon addresses he gave in the years prior to 1946 when in fact, he lived ten (10) plus years after these alleged verbal sermons were given? He certainly could have done so as everything was in place. This point is significant because it casts serious doubt on the notion that Brother Houteff desired to have his pre-1946 sermons published, even if there were recorded notes of them.
- Did any inquisitive minded Davidian wonder why Brother Houteff did not publish his sermons given prior to 1946 if they were never recorded? Could it be that God did not allow them to be published by the prophet because they would create unnecessary confusion on topics such as Jacob's time of trouble, the "Assyrian confederacy", a "Jonah phase" of the message, when did the sixth trumpet begin? Were these sermons resurrected and published in the enemy's effort to deliver a knock out blow for those Davidians who choose to follow the wife Florence instead of the God's true divinely appointed prophet? Is this perhaps one more evidence we see Davidians scattered worldwide at the present time with hardly anyone seeing eye-to-eye?
- For over a decade since these challenges first arose, no one has produced any hard written evidence authorizing the publication of the "New Codes" sermons. Is it because they simply do not exist? Until evidence shows otherwise, it will remain a hoax, a mirage based on rumors and verbal reports that have been circulated and handed down by their favorite teachers and always assumed to be true.
- Many innocent Davidians who tend to lean on the arm of flesh for their knowledge have been pitifully deceived and robbed because of their trust to our alleged leading brethren of experience. It appears that no one has ever critically analyzed these presumptions until sometime around the year 2000. Are we going to allow these men to continue to rob us and lose our crown of glory, or are we going to follow God and start studying for ourselves as inspiration admonishes us to do?

It is a tragic and dangerous situation that these "New Code" defenders continue to fight a losing battle that threatens to lead many souls astray by saying that this is "not a salvation issue". Brethren we must study for ourselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to guide, lead, and direct us unto pure unadulterated Truth for heaven is cheap enough to be our goal.

"Never, never be influenced by reports." — **Testimonies, Vol. 3, p. 506**

“Oh, that the Lord might guide you! You should never in a single instance allow hearsay to move you to action, and yet you have sometimes done this.” —
Testimonies to Ministers, p. 299

Before Two or Three Witnesses

A second unscrupulous pillar of the Mountain Dale paper is the argument that the “New Code” sermon addresses were heard by several older Davidians and this somehow to them is proof enough of their credibility to call it a part of the *Shepherd's Rod* message. They even go so far in this line of faulty reasoning to suggest that since the New Testament itself is based on Jesus’ sermons published by the Apostles; therefore, today we should also trust the non-written sermons of Brother Houteff that were published by the wife Florence. There are numerous logical flaws to such farfetched conclusions of which a few are summarized below.

- Older caucasian Davidians who could have possibly heard any of these sermons apparently delivered by Brother Houteff anywhere from 1936 to 1945 and now are all dead and left no *written* testimony to confirm the contents of said sermons. In fact, most of those who ever had the privilege to hear Brother Houteff speak have apostatized from the message. Furthermore, Don Adair did not come into the camp of old Mt. Carmel until 1953 when he was only 21 years old, meaning he was only three (3) years old in 1945. Therefore, he never was a witness of these sermons. Sister Bonnie Smith, who is still living, grew up on old Mt. Carmel and would have been a child anywhere from six to fourteen years of age when these alleged sermons were given. Of the other older Davidians to whom reference was made include: Brother Sidney Smith, the husband of Sister Bonnie who never saw Brother Houteff while he was alive. Brother Glen Green also grew up on old Mt. Carmel but he never left any documentation about where he stood in regard to these sermon addresses. So much for the two or three witnesses. Significantly, none of these brethren were inspired on the same level of the Apostles as Mountain Dale compared them in order to justify their faulty stand.
- Neither did any of the *Shepherd's Rod* pioneers have the burden of publishing the sermons that they may have heard given by Brother Houteff. Therefore, these alleged sermons on a “card files” come only by word of mouth (hearsay), and not in a written form as that of the Apostles.
- The Apostles were prophets of God inspired to write what is now recorded in the Holy Bible under direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit and cannot be compared to Sister Bonnie, Don Adair, etc.. Florence Houteff took it upon herself to publish the alleged sermon addresses given by Brother Houteff without any written authorization, nor any evidence of such, from the prophet himself. We can

certainly say that she was motivated to write them, but from her track record of systematically remodeling and dismantling the original *Shepherd's Rod* message in an effort to destroy it over a period of seven years and then proclaiming that Brother Houteff was a false prophet, any devout Davidian can truly conclude that her inspiration came, not from God, but straight from the enemy.

- The work of Don Adair to republish the *Symbolic Code Series* does not bear the marks of inspiration. The “blue book” as many Davidian’s affectionately refer to it, is a man-made compilation that does not even follow the original typesetting and format of the original *Symbolic Codes*. In addition, it incorporates selected portions of the “New Codes” based under on the authority of the apostate Florence Houteff, her appointed Executive Council, and the judgment of Don Adair.
- It has only been until recently (2009) that the original *Symbolic Codes* published by Brother Houteff (Vo1. 1, No. 1 to Vol. 10, No. 2) have been made available for publication (<http://www.upa7.org/symbolic-codes.html>) to all without cost or obligation in harmony with the original stated publishing purposes. With God’s unconditional love to His beloved people and by providential design, digital scans of the original *Symbolic Codes* have been recently acquired by *upa7.org* and will be made available to all interested researchers and students of the *Rod* message (<http://www.upa7.org/old-codes-scans.html>). These should be the two or three witnesses that the wise shall go by, *not* the fallible memories of those who carried them into their graves without leaving a note for us to base upon our belief. This *is* indeed truly a salvation issue. Can we just add and subtract to the *Shepherd's Rod* message without remorse?

Written Testimonies

“Clearly, then, the only possible way in which these "brethren of experience" can be consulted at the present time is by giving heed to the voice which *they left on record in their own written testimonies* and in those especially of their leader and God's spokesman, Sister White. The "angel" of the Laodiceans, who is "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked," obviously is not to be sought for counsel, but rather ministered to with instruction.” — **Tract No. 7, p. 40**

Conclusion

Nearing towards the end of our long journey, as weary Davidians contemplating our soul salvation that has been purchased for us at such an infinite cost that is dependent upon *every word* that proceeds out of the mouth of God as recorded in the King James version of the Holy Bible, then how can we trust it to mere rumor, reports, and the fallible

memories of mere mortals who took them to their graves because they were our favorite friends? This would be folly and madness to the utmost. This applies fully well to the entire original writings of the *Shepherd's Rod* message published by Brother V. T. Houteff from 1930 to 1954 based upon many inspired statements and the faithful witness of present truth believers who have taken pains to investigate this matter for themselves and made a decision to shun all cunningly devised fables in regard to these "New Codes". Since we have no written record or proof that the alleged sermon addresses given by Brother Houteff and published under the authority of the apostate wife Florence were ever recorded word for word in the "card files", which contradicts with that of the original *Shepherd's Rod* message in several places, shall we risk crying out in the bitterest remorse by casting away our God given crown to eternity on such a shaky foundation? Can we really allow them to take our crown of glory because they say that adding to the original *Shepherd's Rod* message is *not* a salvation issue?

Shall we just cut apart the Bible and take only what we want and throw away the portions that our so-called brethren of experience told us is not a salvation issue because they want to follow the wife?

Please ponder upon this life and death matter brethren with much prayers and supplication. We plead to all clear minded and logical thinkers amongst us as Davidians, not only to sink the shaft deeper into the mine of Truth, but to practice them in unwavering faith fastened to the Rock of Ages, for the soul saved may be your own.

May God help us all to remain steadfast and to stand strong for the Truth, only the Truth, and nothing but the Truth, without addition nor subtraction of one jot or tittle to the prophet's writings, that one day we may all come into unity of faith and rejoice in His love and reign with Him throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

In that blessed hope,

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