

THE LORD'S CHURCH AND SEPARATE INSTITUTIONS

The Lord's church functions in only two capacities: as individuals and collectively as a body. We may accomplish things as individuals which we cannot as a collective body: eat common meals, rear and discipline children, work at a secular employment, operate our own business. As a collective body we function in areas different from that as an individual: refrain from common meals, partake of the Lord's supper on the first day of the week, women must be silent in the assembly, and men must speak one by one to an undivided assembly.

As a collective body it is only through the CHURCH that our EVERY activity is to be done. We are citizens of God's kingdom and none other. This is why we don't have Sunday schools. This is why we don't have institutions of human origin like Boy Scouts, Missionary societies, Old person's homes, orphan homes, charitable organizations (such as Save the Children, The Eye of the Child, UNICEF, NACP, and many, many others. This is why we don't have organizations which sponsor or are affiliated with denominational churches, or societies which promote women's rights or schools and nurseries or any movement other than the LORD'S CHURCH.

In the Bible, for example, we never read of: **Phebe** doing her work through an organization - but rather she served individually as "a servant of the CHURCH" (Rom. 16:1); **Paul** working through a missionary society when he went on a missionary journey (Acts 13:1-3) - rather he worked individually with Barnabas through the CHURCH at Antioch; **the twelve** establishing an old-people's society to take care of the neglected Grecian widows (Acts 6:1-6) - rather seven men from the congregation attended to the need; or **older women** teaching a Sunday School class - but rather as individual members of the church they taught in their daily lives those who were younger (Titus 2:3-5).

The early church ALWAYS functioned either as an ASSEMBLY or as INDIVIDUAL members of the CHURCH - never through another agency, institution, or organization. This is the Lord's PATTERN, and those who wish to please Him must follow His way. In referring to Moses' following God's will in such passages as Exodus 25:9, 40, Exodus 25:40, Exodus 26:30, and Numbers 8:4, note the words of New Testament writers.

Stephen: "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appoint, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it "ACCORDING TO THE FASHION which he had seen" (Acts 7:44)

The writer of Hebrews: "Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make ALL THINGS according to the PATTERN shewed to thee in the mount" (Hebrews 8:5)

Contrary to the way sectarian denominations work, it is our belief and principle that the Lord's church of today must do things as they were done by the early church. Inspired men were present among those early disciples and instructed them as to God's will. We today have their words and examples of their practices in the New Testament - and this is the pattern which serves as our guide.

With this in view, therefore, we are not authorized to function through any organization except the CHURCH and we cannot support any work other than that done as the Lord's church. We are encouraged as an individual Christian to help and influence any with whom we come in contact, but we cannot support or function through any organization other than the church of our Lord.

As it has happened in America, when we begin to allow practices apart from God's word there is no stopping or more and more error coming in little by little until we begin to be simply another denomination. We are PEOPLE OF THE LORD and may be known as such because we follow the Bible pattern.

HARRY COBB
P.O. Box 75
Wedowee, AL 36278

TEACHING AND ADMONISHING THROUGH OUR SINGING

I'm quite sure that we would all agree that one purpose of singing is to praise God. This is what is meant by the word "hymn", which comes from the Greek word "humnos", meaning "a song in praise of". There is another purpose of singing that we want to focus on, and that is teaching and admonishing through our singing.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Col. 3:16)

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" (Eph. 5:19)

Our singing is not just directed toward God. Certainly, many songs are, but many songs are directed to each other. That's because many songs are designed to TEACH one another - teaching and admonishing us to live properly, to enjoy the blessings of the Christian life. It might even be said that "congregational singing" is "congregational teaching"! Thus singing is a way that we can encourage our brethren and ourselves as well!

Let's make it a point when we sing to direct our attention to the words of the songs. And if a song is intended to TEACH or to ADMONISH us (e.g., "To the Work", "Yield Not to Temptation", "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes", etc., etc.), let's take the words to heart and let them have their full effect.

Remember, one purpose of singing IS to praise God! Still, there are some songs that have a different purpose, and we can gain much strength from their teachings.

**CHAD PRINCE
919 Pine Cliff
Oxford, AL 36203**

**TO THOSE WHO OBEY HIS WILL, GOD PROMISED A SAFE LANDING
(Matt. 7:21), NOT AN EASY PASSAGE (2 Tim. 3:12).**

SOME THINGS YOU WILL SEE AT THE JUDGMENT:

1. The greatest crowd ever assembled (2 Cor. 5:10)
2. The greatest judge that ever sat in judgment (2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 22:12)
3. The greatest judgment books that were ever opened (Rev. 20:12)

4. The most precise judgment ever made (Matt. 12:36; Matt. 25:48)
5. The greatest separation ever known (Matt. 25:33, 48)

FOUNDED UPON CHRIST

The New Testament church was built upon a foundation that included the prophets, apostles and Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:19-22).

There can be no foundation laid by mankind. Christ is the ONLY sure, reliable foundation.

“For other foundation can no man lay that that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 3:11).

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
October 2 – 5	Ashlock Church near Celina, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
October 6 – 10	Laurel Church London, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
October 9 – 12	Marrowbone, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
October 10 – 12	Mt. Carmel Rd. Church near Alvaton, GA	Dana Chandler (Wedowee, AL)
October 10 – 12	New Bethel Church Cullman, AL	Bob Golson (Deatsville, AL)
October 13 – 17	Goochtown Church near Eubank, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
October 24 – 26	Valley, AL	Brad Prince (Oxford, AL)
Oct. 31 - - Nov. 2	Second Ave. Church Opelika, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Timothy's mother was a Jewess. What nationality was his father?
2. Zedekiah released Jeremiah from prison but restricted him to what area?
3. According to Judges chapter 2, after God gave the people judges, did they turn and worship God?
4. According to Revelation, the church of Smyrna was told to be faithful unto death, and Christ would give them what crown?
5. What was King Uzziah's great love?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. About what two people was it written, "The elder shall serve the younger"? JACOB AND ESAU (Rom. 9:12,13)
2. What giant was from Gath? GOLIATH (1 Sam. 17:4)
3. According to John 14, what are in the Father's house? MANY MANSIONS (John 14:2)
4. What side was Ezekiel to lie on to represent the iniquity of the house of Israel? LEFT (Ezek. 4:4)
5. Which of Saul's daughters was in love with David? MICHAL, THE YOUNGER (1 Sam. 18:20)