

Our purpose is to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,” and to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

# OLD PATHS ADVOCATE

“To continue speaking the truth in love,” “endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,” “keeping the ordinance as delivered.”

“Thus saith the Lord, ‘stand ye in the ways, and see and ask for the Old Paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest of your souls.’ (Jer. 6:16) “And they that be of Thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Paths to Dwell in.” (Isa. 58:12).

VOL. XCIII

LEBANON, MISSOURI • JULY 2021

NO. 7

## DOES GOD ACCEPT WORSHIP THAT IGNORES HIS INSTRUCTIONS?

BY GREG GAY

Mankind has never had to guess how God wants to be worshiped. God has always explained exactly how to worship him in each dispensation of time. Whether to pay attention to God’s instructions and follow them are decisions we make with the free will God gives to all. The Bible teaches an appropriate acknowledgment of God always includes worship that obeys his commands. Correct worship results in God’s blessings and acceptance. God’s rejection and punishment is the result of not worshiping him or of worshiping him in error.

When Cain and Abel offered sacrifices to God, Abel’s sacrifice was accepted, and Cain’s was rejected. Both offered sacrifices but the writer of Hebrews tells us Abel’s sacrifice was offered in faith, implying that Abel did exactly what God required as worship. Cain, by contrast, evidently made the decision to defy God and to do as he pleased in making his sacrifice.

“By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks” (Hebrews 11:4). We can learn from this example, worship that ignores God’s instruction is not acceptable to God.

With the advent of Ten Commandment Law, the Law of Moses, once again God gave instructions for how to worship. An example can be seen as Aaron and his sons were being ordained as High Priest and Priests to offer worship to God. God’s instructions included they were to burn incense only with fire that had been miraculously kindled when sacrifices were offered. Instead, two of Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, made the decision to choose their own fire when burning

incense, thus defying God, just as Cain did hundreds of years before. The consequence was an immediate loss of life for both.

“Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’”(Leviticus 10:1-3). The lesson we can learn is that those who would come near to God must do so on his terms, in exact obedience.

What should we anticipate for God’s expectations about worship in our day, in the time of the New Testament? Hopefully, we expect the pattern to continue that we have learned in prior dispensations of time: God has given instructions for worship in this dispensation, just as he has from the beginning, and he blesses those who obediently serve him.

In the New Testament, we learn our worship today must be an undivided assembly of members of the congregation and visitors gathering “together in one place” (1 Corinthians 14:23). Paul writes of the congregation at Corinth being “together as a church” (1 Corinthians 11:18).

When the congregation assembles as required on the Lord’s Day (Acts 20:7), the items of worship must include: Prayers (1 Timothy. 2:1), Teaching (1 Corinthians 14:29-35), Singing (Ephesians 5:19), Contribution of money (1 Corinthians 16:1- 2), and the Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 11 :23-29). Less or more than the items authorized would not be appropriate, no matter how sincere the participants may be.

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

Single Subscription One Year..... \$15.00  
 Also On The Internet  
 Published Monthly by **Old Paths Advocate**, Lebanon, MO  
 A.C. Brockman, 2033 King James, Lebanon, MO 65536  
 periodical postage paid at Lebanon, MO 65536  
 Send Form 3579 to **Old Paths Advocate**  
 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550.

All articles published in **Old Paths Advocate** contain the view of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors and publishers. If you have any questions, please direct them to the author listed at the heading of the article.

**Editorial**

**FACTS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*By DAVID GRIFFIN*

In Matthew chapter 16, Jesus was with his apostles in Caesarea Philippi. He asked them what people were saying about him. They told him that there were all kinds of opinions about him. But Peter’s view was that “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Jesus then blessed Peter and added, “I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church” (v. 18, NKJV). The Lord’s promise to Peter-”I will build my church”-is proof of at least three things. 1) The building of the church was still future when Jesus said this, 2) it is Jesus who would build the church and not some other man, and 3) after that church was built, it would be His.

1) It was still Future.

In all the gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) the church is mentioned only here in Matthew 16:18 and later in Matthew 18:17. The other gospel writers never even use the word church. Not only that, but in both these Matthew passages, the church is yet a future entity-” I will build,” Jesus said. In other words, Jesus and his apostles could not have been “members of the church” during Jesus’ earthly ministry. The church had not yet been established.

However, as one reads through the New Testament, the next time “church” occurs is in Acts 2:47- “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” Here the church is now in existence, because people were being added to it by the Lord. Clearly then, Acts chapter 2 is a pivotal chapter in the New Testament, for it describes the establishment, the beginning of the church. Jesus had promised his apostles nearly a year earlier that he would build it; now in Acts 2, it exists.

Earlier in this same chapter the Apostle Peter preached the sermon that led those people into the church that day. He declared that Jesus was the one responsible for the miraculous events the people were witnessing that compelled them into the church-”He poured out this which you now see and hear,” he told them (v. 33).

*continued on page 9*

**GAMBLING***By BENNIE T. CRYER*

Gambling has had its place in man's history for thousands of years. Loaded dice were buried with a Pharaoh in order, I suppose, to improve his chances in the next life. The gambling fever gripped old China in the days of Confucius. The Jews of Biblical times apparently picked up the vice from the Greeks and Romans, though a majority frowned upon it or out rightly condemned it. The Mayflower brought gambling to America where it has flourished as never before. According to one source, it has grown into a gigantic business dwarfing the combined income of America's largest corporations. While the history of gambling is shockingly appalling to read about, the future of gambling is terrifyingly dangerous. The choking tentacles of this monstrous business, which in large part is controlled and influenced by organized crime, reaches into every state of the union. Forty-four (at the time the information for this article was gathered) states permit legalized gambling in some form or another, but it is estimated that for every dollar that is legally wagered nine are wagered illegally. It deeply concerns us that our government is reaching out to embrace gambling and advertise the vice to its citizens as a proper means of raising taxes. Just a light reading of gambling's history in its relationship to our government in past ventures shows that eventually it will cost the states \$5.00 to collect each dollar it earns from legalized gambling. There will come a time in gambling's vicious cycle when they will have to completely outlaw gambling, as was done in past years, because of the corruption in the business itself and the degenerative effects on their citizens, especially the ones who can least afford it, that is, the poor and disadvantaged. One thing you quickly learn from history: gambling is here to stay. Its future is secure in America, at least for a long, long while and, therefore, God's people need to come to grips with this cancerous vice in order to know the proper course of action when facing it, whether it is "matching for Cokes," or buying a lottery ticket, from school, state, or church. (The states that oppose legalized gambling fear that it is going to come in through the "back door" of churches and charitable organizations who dabble in various forms of gambling (Bingo and raffles). Or whether it's visiting one of the famous gambling sanctuaries (Reno, Las Vegas, etc.) with the temptation of putting a "little loose change" in a slot machine or

whatever might be there.

**IS ALL OF LIFE A GAMBLE?**

Isn't all of life a gamble? Aren't the farmers gambling when they plant a crop? Isn't the investor gambling when he invests in the stock of some company? Aren't you really gambling with your life if you get into your car and drive on one of our freeways? Or is there a difference in taking an "ordinary" risk that is built into life, (For example: Buying life or health insurance is not gambling because you do not create the risk of death, injury or disease. The risk is already there.) and actually "creating artificial risk and voluntarily choosing to participate in it with the anticipation of gaining something even though you know that another person must lose? In a legitimate business operation, you have ordinary risks in order to produce goods or provide services that will benefit society. It is designed so that everyone should gain from an investment in it. It is not for the purpose of gaining because someone else loses. In organized gambling, for example, the odds are carefully thought out so there will be more losers than winners. There is the absence of honest toil and in its place is the desire to get something for nothing, and this usually from someone else's bad luck.

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?**

Although Paul does use the infamous practice of gamblers who play with loaded dice as a metaphor, in which he cautions the Christians at Ephesus against

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**Old Paths Advocate**

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**Lebanon, MO 65536**

*\$15 for one year*

the cheating “sleight of men,” Eph. 4: 14, which ought to be enough to put gambling in a bad light, the word “gambling” does not occur in the Bible. So, how could it be considered a sin in the absence of a law strictly prohibiting it? God did not even see fit to record every work that Jesus did. Nor did he consider it proper to list the hundreds of things in our life that might be right or wrong. Instead, he simply revealed several principles and reminded us that along with the listed sins of the flesh there were “such like” things not listed, Gal. 5:41, and exhorted us to use our “senses” to discern both good and evil, Heb. 5:14, as a sign of maturity. While several passages reveal principles violated in gambling, 1 Tim. 6:5-11 seems to contain a summary of most of them.

### THE LUST OF THE FLESH

The way gambling makes its appeal to a person makes it suspect. I John 2:15 lists the different headings for the three groups of sin: “The lusts of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” “Covetousness which is idolatry” is listed as a sin of the flesh in Col. 3:5. Our text properly identifies the problem we are dealing with. It tells of those “that will be rich,” and speaks of those that “love” money and “covet” after it. It didn’t take the gambling industry long to find out that “He that loveth silver will not be satisfied,” Eccl. 5:10. The shame of state officials involving themselves in legalized gambling is seen in the advertising campaign of one eastern state that had legalized the lottery system and found themselves in the disappointing position of having to advertise in order to increase their revenue. Their advertising campaign consisted of telling the factory workers that they could get out of the factory and out of the rut they were in by buying a lottery ticket. The director of this campaign said, “We are selling a dream.” Really, what they were doing was appealing to the lower and baser element in man called “greed” or “covetousness.” Because of this characteristic in a man’s heart, it is sinful for a Christian to help the gambling industry by telling stories of big winners, of a large jack-pot being hit, or of prosperity coming through gambling. You become the unwitting helper of Satan as he touches the hearts of more and more people who hear you and others who relate these stories. You seldom hear them tell about the heart breaks, the broken lives and homes, and the hungry children created by gambling. It has been estimated that if newspapers, radio newscasters, and enough individuals will tell about a million-dollar winner, it will increase the

gambling business by three million dollars. Christians should not engage in advertising gambling in any way. Gambling’s evil appeal to the flesh makes it wrong.

### RESULTS OF GAMBLING MAKES IT WRONG

The text shows that “the root of all evil” will produce the following results: “They will fall into temptation and a snare,” and “into many foolish and hurtful lusts.” They will “Pierce themselves through with many sorrows.” In Prov. 15:27 Solomon warned, “He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house.” Does this happen in gambling? One man said, “I actually stole money from my four-year old to go to the tracks.” A policeman lost his job, his house and eventually his family because he started playing cards for small change. A San Francisco priest lied to get over \$100,000.00 from his parishioners in order to finance himself in this sinful activity. These are the extremes, I grant you, but they all began with that first step. If you think it is not a trap set by Satan just consider that its hold on a man’s heart is so strong that it is estimated that 90% of the ones making an attempt to quit will return to the habit. It is a “hurtful lust” that will “ensnare” you.

### HOW IT AFFECTS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

The text in 1 Tim. 6 instructs us that such have “erred (been seduced) from the faith” and have participated in something that “drowns men in destruction and perdition.” In other words, a person like that has allowed himself to be separated from God and is in a lost condition. When you gamble a number of verses are violated. Let us study two of them: 1. Rom. 15:1, “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves.” In gambling your winnings are the result of the losses of another. You are actually profiting from a person less sharp, less skilled, and weaker than yourself. In Mt. 7:12 we are taught, “Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.” What if someone came along and took your money from you because they were stronger. Would it be right? 2. James 4:13-16. “Go to now, ye that say, today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life. It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For ye ought to say, If the Lord will

we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil." All of my life I have been taught to say, in reference to anything in the future, "If the Lord wills." These verses teach that time and chance belong to the Lord. Lots were often cast in the Bible and in so doing they were appealing to the judgement of God. We cannot afford to make an evil game out of something like that. When we are boasting about the future as is done in gambling and rejoicing in doing it, it is evil. In gambling you violate the principle found in James 4. For example, Oklahoma University and Texas university are scheduled to play each other in football this fall. Suppose you and a friend decide to bet \$20.00 on the outcome of the game. Now, remember, as a Christian you are required to say, "if the Lord Wills," this or that it will come to pass. Would you be willing to say that with your bet? Most likely not, if you are serious about religion you would consider it sacrilege. But you are doing something just as bad! You are saying, "I will bet you that Oklahoma will beat Texas and I will give you 17 points and I will back that up with this twenty-dollar bill!" See whose will is in this? Not the Lord's, but yours and you have "forsover" yourself and stepped beyond the principle found in Mt. 5:33-37 where Jesus said you shouldn't do things like that because you cannot "make one hair white or black." Furthermore, you are backing up your prediction of a future occurrence with money. You have taken the Lord's will out of it and substituted your own.

#### TAKE HEED

Involvement in gambling may come easily in our lives so we have to constantly be on guard. This is the reason a generation ago our parents taught us not to say "I bet" and face cards were a "no, no" in many Christian homes. They were thought to be a step toward gambling. In fact, a survey taken several decades ago suggested that 9 out of 10 gamblers learned to gamble in their home and 8 out of 10 learned to gamble in "Christian" homes." Recent surveys show more women (4 million more) are participating in gambling than men. This means more and more mothers are in a position to influence their children to gamble and that the home has become the primary school for gamblers. Parents, the direction your children take in life is largely determined by you. Make sure you do not encourage your children to participate in this vicious sin. Christian teachers you have an obligation to teach against this sin with all of your heart. Let us all make sure that as

gambling increases more and more in the world that it not be found in the Lord's church. —OPA 1982

(Note: When I was a boy, playing cards of any kind were not allowed in our home not even "old Maid," -DLK)

#### **RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH**

*By J. WAYNE MCKAMIE*

We come to you, even as Paul, when he said, I come not with excellency of speech or with enticing words of man's wisdom, but to preach Christ and Him crucified," (I Cor. 2:1, 4). We find recorded in 2 Tim. 2:15 the words of the apostle Paul, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." The failure to heed this blessed command has been one of the most frequent causes of religious error. The misapplication of scripture which has resulted from an improper division or handling of the Word has caused people to lose respect for the Word of God, and has caused many to trample underfoot His glorious Church and in the end bring the Lord's condemnation upon missions of souls.

Paul spoke of those who would misapply and pervert His gospel and called them false prophets. In Matt. 7:15, Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheeps clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." To obey the Word of God, we must know the Will of God, If we are to understand His Will to fallen man and the Christians, we must be able to properly apply the passage that we read. If we fail in this important matter, we make the Bible a book of confusion and contradiction as some have claimed it to be. All this is avoided if we "handle aright the word of truth." As all should know, the first thirty-nine books of the Bible make up the Old Testament and this was God's law to the Jews, before Christ died and "Blotted out the handwriting or ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way nailing it to His cross" (Cor. 2:14). We shall not be judged by the old law as we have the perfect law of liberty and the old law was for a former age and another people.

Although this is not our law, we should study it because the things which were written aforetime were written for our learning. We, living under law of Christ cannot look to the old law to justify anything we practice or teach. Under this law there was not complete forgiveness

of sins, and it could truly be called an imperfect law. Yes, today we have the perfect law, the words which pertain unto all life and godliness. We are living in the Christian Dispensation and we are to obey Christ. Dear Friends, we must obey Christ, if we ever expect to reach the port of immortal splendor. The New Testament is the revelation of God's Will for the people of the world today and by obeying and accepting its conditions, men become children of God in Christ. As His children, we must recognize the divisions of this covenant to properly understand.

The first four Books give unto us, chiefly, the biography of Christ. Here, we see His birth, life, wonderful works, death, and resurrection. John could not have used better words as he said, "These are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through His name" (John 20:31). By these books, faith, can be wrought in the hearts of men. As we look further, we see the Book of Acts which could, be called the second division. This book, written by Luke as he was moved by the Holy Spirit, is a history of the beginning of the Church and of the Acts of the Apostles. Here, men preach the facts of life and works of that lowly Galilean, as recorded in the first division. Thus, producing faith in the hearts of men, they prepared them for obedience to the Will of God. What was the Will of God to fallen man? Peter said, in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promises, as some men count slackness, but is long suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." The Lord invites all when He says, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). Can we not see the boundless love He has for fallen man, as He stands as it were with outstretched arms, pleading "Come"?

He is calling to all through His word. Listen, if you will, to the plan of salvation outlined in God's Word. First, we must believe. Rom. 14:14 says, "How then shall they call on Him of whom they have not heard and how shall they hear without a preacher?" We see by this that the word must be preached before one can hear and believe. In John 8:24, "For if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins." By searching out and 'setting in order, as did the preacher of old, we find that "without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe..."", Heb. 11:6. So friends, we see by this, that faith is very essential, but faith alone cannot save a man because the Lord requested more. The devils believed and trembled.

They were not saved; neither will a person be saved today on faith alone. It cannot be done, according to the Word of God. Second, we must repent of our sins. There has to be a reformation of our lives. Luke 13:13, "I tell you nay, except you repent ye shall all like wise perish." Acts 17:30, "The times of this ignorance God winked at but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Next, we see that Christ warned us that if we did not confess His name before men, He would not confess us in Heaven. (Matt. 10:32, 33).

Friends, let us not walk in the ways of those who would have a penitent believer confess that he believes God, for Christ's sake has pardoned his sins. This is foreign to the teaching of the New Testament and cannot be so because his sins have not yet been pardoned. The Bible tells us in Rom. 10:10, "With the mouth, confession is made unto salvation." All these steps that we have mentioned are very essential, but still we are not saved because they are "unto" salvation. We must be baptized for the remission of our sins. In Acts 2:38 the Holy Spirit, speaking through Peter, told the men upon that occasion "to repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou, arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins."

When one renders obedience to these commands, he is translated from the power or kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God's dear Son; he is translated from darkness into light. I did not say it, the Bible says it. There is another pardon found in God's Word for those who go astray into the world and also for those who have lifted the floodgate of innovations and are tramping underfoot the Commandments of the One who bled and died for them. Listen, Friends and Brethren, instrumental music is not the only addition that has been made to God's Word. May you realize, anyone adding to the items of worship set forth in God's Word brings Rev. 22:18 down upon their heads with all the force of God's wrath, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book." Dear friends, I would be afraid of it. Be sure! Take a stand on the Bible, on a "Thus saith the Lord," and practice what cannot be wrong! You are told to come back, repent of those wrongs, confess your error and pray one for another that you might be healed (James 5:16).

The last division of the Book is the book of Revelations.

Here, God unfolds to John the final triumph of right and good. Evil and ungodliness fail and are finally punished under the wrath of God, while good and righteousness will be eternally rewarded. Thus we see that by the proper divisions of the word, by letting each part fall into its proper place and be used for its proper purpose, we can arrive at an understanding of the Will of God, and that alone will save us.

My prayer is that you, my friend, will “Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” —J.Wayne McKamie, McGregor, Texas 1958

### PAGES FROM THE PAST

*The following article comes from the pen of our publisher Don King. It appeared in the May 1968 issue of the Old Paths Advocate. The article deals with the subject of missing the Lord’s Day worship. Over the years this is a problem that still plagues the church. So many put other things before their responsibility and duty to attend. The first day of the week should be special to every Christian and it is a shame that so many think other things are more important. —Rick Martin*

#### THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, CAN WE MISS?

This is a question that some of our brethren are asking today. Often a brother or sister is confronted with the task of overcoming the temptation to forsake the Lord’s Day worship in order to work, or perhaps to engage in a form of relaxation. However, to the mature child of God the exhortation of the Apostle Paul is enough to cause us to see that we cannot become guilty of “forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is” (Heb. 10:25). Paul evidently knew of some who were missing the worship, but he said, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.”

Some may say, “Why is it so important that I assemble with the saints on Lord’s Day morning?” Paul says again in I Cor.11:1 “Be ye followers of me even as I also am of Christ.” Notice, Paul tells us to follow him as he follows Christ, and so then if we are to follow him, we will be at the assembly. Acts 20:7 says, “And upon the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread Paul preached unto them ready

to depart on the morrow and continued his speech until midnite.” Whatever else Paul had done on that day would be permissible for us too, however the bible says, “Paul preached unto them.” So we see then that on the first day of the week we are to be at the house of God.

But again let us notice I Cor. 11:33, 34. “Wherefore my brethren when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another, And if any man hunger let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation and the rest will I set in order when I come.” Now then. we understand from this that we are to come together to eat, not to sustain our temporal appetites as some might contend, for Paul warns, “that ye come not together unto condemnation” In other words if the communion is only something to eat to us then we are coming together unto condemnation, because Jesus said in Luke 22:19, “This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.” The point is that this must not be “just a ritual” to the child of God, but a memorial service. But again, because God did not feel it necessary to specify what Lord’s Day we can miss, we must be safe in our belief that we are required to worship him every first day of the week. Paul said according to Heb. 10:25, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.” Paul says again in I Cor. 11:1 “Be ye followers of me even as I also am of Christ.” Notice, Paul tells us to follow him as he follows Christ, and so then if we are to follow him we will be at the house of God on the first day of the week according to Acts 20:7.

But some of our brethren believe it permissible to miss the worship on Lord’s Day morning if they need to work. But Jesus seemingly does not accept this excuse because he said in Matt. 6:24, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other: or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words defines the word “mammon” as a common Aramaic word for riches. So, if we read Matt 6:24 with the word riches taking the place of mammon, we can see our Savior’s meaning more clearly perhaps. Why do some of our brethren persist in disregarding the word of God Almighty? Jesus says in other words, you cannot serve me, and money; this certainly makes it look bad for those who would dare to forsake the assembling of ourselves together in order to work for money. Perhaps you may feel that you cannot make it financially if you do not work on Lord’s Day, but notice the words of Jesus in Matt. 6:33: “But seek

ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you. But again, if we really love God and try to keep His commandments, we will be sure to be present on the first day of the week because Jesus says again in Matt. 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

According to church history it was the common thing for the saints to gather around the Lord’s table on the first day of the week; certainly if God expected them to worship him weekly, then we in this day and time can afford to do no less. Mark 8:36: “For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”

### AGE TAKES ITS TOLL

*By RICK MARTIN*

All of us remember the amazing things that David did when he was a young man. We remember that he killed a lion and a bear, and he took down the mighty giant Goliath. He led the people of God into battle on several occasions. But the time came when age took its toll.

When David was an older man, he was almost killed in a battle, 2 Samuel 21. David’s men saw that he had almost been killed and they made him promise not to engage in battle anymore, lest he should “quench the light of Israel” 2 Samuel 21:17. They had previously made this request in 2 Samuel 18:1-4. David was not the mighty warrior he once was. They could do without David as a soldier, but they did not want to continue without his leadership. His role needed to change.

As we get older our roles change. We move from a child to an accountable person; then from a teen to an adult. We go from dependency to being employed. Many of us move from being single to married life and children are brought into the picture. The children grow up, and we become empty nesters.

We move from full strength to limited strength. The physical man waxes old with time; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” As we age, we may not be able

to do all that we used to, but we can do what we can. “She has done what she could” (Mark 14:8) is the right formula for pleasing the Lord!

Younger Christians need the power of the positive example of the aged. When the young see older Christians attend services when they don’t feel like it, it encourages them to come. Older Christians have wisdom from which younger Christians need to learn; Prov.16:31 “The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.” The older women are to teach the younger; Titus 2:3-4 “The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women...”

I would advise young people to take advantage of the wisdom and experience of older Christians. Old people know more about being young than young people do about being old.

As aged Christians we must remember that young people do not need to hear: “We’ve done that before; It won’t work; everyone’s already heard that”. As age takes its toll let us remember the young do not need to be criticized and attacked because of our petty jealousy. We move from independent to dependent, and from earth to eternity. We cannot stop the aging process, but we can keep ourselves useful.

There may come a time when our role in the church must change, even against our desires. Unfortunately, some do not go quietly and cause a problem for the congregation of which they are a member and the church. That time may come when we get older and are not able to accomplish physically what we once could. This does not mean we cease to work or cease to be of value to the church. It means we change how we work. There may come a day when all we can do is pray-but that is a lot! James 5:6 “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”.

Whatever we can do in our old age, we should do it “heartily unto the Lord and not unto men”; Colossians 3:23. Whether it is from behind the scenes to on stage, or from limelight to unnoticed makes no difference. As age takes its toll, we should be willing to serve God wherever He needs, and we should be willing to seek His glory in our old age. —Rick Martin, teacherrmartin@gmail.com



**PREACHING PALS**

Don L. King and Virgilio O. Danao Sr.  
Jan. 1999 Philippines



faithfully gather each Lord’s Day to follow the ancient pattern of worship given in the New Testament and practiced by the earliest Christians. Paul encourages all to faithfulness, “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Galatians 6:9). 3816 Tambos Trl., Edmond, OK 73034, 916-804-3787, papagreg@aol.com.

*SPEAKING THE TRUTH....continued from page two*

Thus, Peter is giving the credit to Jesus for the events of Acts 2, and he is thereby giving Jesus the credit for the establishment of the church that day also. This is the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise in Matthew 16:18.

2) It is Jesus who would build the church and not some other man.

Since Peter (in Acts 2) credits Jesus with the establishment of the church, the conclusion is unavoidable that Jesus is its founder. All teaching about the church throughout the New Testament from that point forward assumes this fact. Jesus is the “author of eternal salvation to all who obey him” (Hebrews 5:9); he is “the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2); he is “head over all things to the church” (Ephesians 1:22); and “he is the head of the body, the church” (Colossians 1:18).

*DOES GOD ACCEPT....continued from page one*

When we look at Paul’s first letter to the congregation at Corinth, we find they had created their own style of worship. Paul admonished them to immediately stop what they were doing. He reminded them of God’s rules for the assembly of the church and for the items of worship (1 Corinthians 14:26-40), including the rebukes: “For God is not the author of confusion but of peace” (1 Corinthians 14:33) and “Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

As Paul taught Corinth, God does not accept worship that ignores his instructions. As we can see, He never has. Sadly, most religions’ worship today is more like what Paul stopped at Corinth, rather than what God has specified and what Paul told Corinth they must do for their worship to be acceptable.

While millions today choose to ignore God’s word for how to worship, there are many around the world who

These inspired facts force us to the conclusion that no other person has authority to establish a church. God has given no one that prerogative. Only Jesus can do that; only Jesus, in reality, has done that. Various people through the ages, however, especially since the Protestant Reformation of the 1500s, have established churches (which they call denominations). However, people who honor the authority of the Bible must ask, “Who gave to mere humans the right to establish denominations in the name of Christ?” No Biblical teaching grants anyone such authority!

3) After that church was built, it would be His.

Jesus said, “I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18). Since Jesus is the founder and builder of his church, and since he is the head of it, no person can claim ownership of it. To do so would be blasphemous. Yet, amazingly, this divine fact does not prevent people from doing just that. How many churches (denominations) have human names, either the name of the founder, or the

name of some doctrine, or the name of a form of church government, or some other name of which the New Testament knows nothing? The church that Jesus built bears the name of Christ only! Why? Because he is the builder of it! And because “there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Any church that is built by someone other than Jesus and bears a name other than his cannot be the church that Jesus promised to build! Don’t you want to be a member only of the church Jesus built?

Objections!

But there are objections to this. Some object by saying, “Well, Alexander Campbell founded the church of Christ denomination in America.” Alexander Campbell was a reformer of the 19th century. He and his father, Thomas Campbell, and others advocated a return to the New Testament only. For several decades, they pleaded with multitudes to abandon man-made creeds and organizations of human origin and pointed them back to the New Testament church and the apostles’ doctrine. Any person of any era may do this. It just happened to be Campbell and others in the 19th century of which we are aware. That is what the church of Christ today continues to urge people to do in the 21st century. However, to point people back to pure New Testament Christianity, and to a restoration of the church that Jesus built, is not to establish a new denomination. It is to plead for a “Thus saith the Lord” for all that we do in service to Him. And that includes upholding the New Testament’s teaching about the church and not endorsing unscriptural denominationalism.

As you read the New Testament, ask yourself about the church where you go. Was it founded by some man other than Jesus? Does it bear the name of a man, a doctrine, or call attention to some distinction arising from a previous division between denominations? Then ask yourself, “Can such an institution be the one that Jesus built?”

## Our Departed

MCKAMIE - Lula Jean McKamie was born November 24, 1932, to John Herman Cherry and Flora Eunice (Roach) Cherry. She passed from this life May 14, 2021, at the age of 88 years. For most of her life, she resided on the Cherry Hill Farm in McClellan County,

Texas. She attended elementary school at Lorena and then transferred to Moody High School where she graduated in 1950. At Moody High, she met Wayne McKamie. They were married June 29, 1951, in the old Victorian house on Cherry Hill. To this union were born four sons: Charles, Carlis, David, and Brian. Jean was baptized into Christ at the age of 13, and she remained a staunch member until her death. She and Wayne made the Johnson Drive Church of Christ in McGregor their home congregation. The church was always at the center of Jean’s life, and she left her children a legacy of a love for the church. In 1951 Jean graduated from CCCC Business College in Waco, the same year Wayne began preaching. They soon moved to Harrodsburg, Indiana, to work with the Church of Christ there. Over the next nine years, they traveled the country, working with churches in various places and holding numerous gospel meetings. In 1960 Jean and Wayne settled permanently in the old house on Cherry Hill. They continued, however, to travel as Wayne preached the gospel during summer months and on almost every holiday weekend. Jean was an intelligent, talented, and creative person who improved everything she touched and sought perfection in all she did. She was a devoted, attentive mother and a faithful, godly wife who never failed to support Wayne’s preaching of the gospel. Jean worked tirelessly to sew beautifully-made clothing for her growing family and labored to have her children ready night after night to attend the many meetings Wayne conducted. During the school year, she worked as a librarian in the Bruceville-Eddy public schools and quilted, canned, and cooked at home on the farm. At the time of her passing, Wayne and Jean had been married for sixty-nine years. Appreciation is often lost for those who take care of their responsibilities in the background, and such was the case with Jean. In tribute to her, Wayne made sure it was made known to all who attended the service that he recognized she was the most faithful and supportive wife he could have had. “I could never have done what I did without her,” he said. Jean’s greatest accomplishment was, of course, obeying the gospel and remaining faithful. Her second greatest accomplishment was being instrumental in leading Wayne to the Lord. Without her, the brotherhood would never have known Wayne McKamie-his magnificent sermons would never have been preached, the thousands of people his life touched would never have been touched, the many whom he encouraged privately would never have happened, and the messages of hope he took to different parts of the world would

not have been heard, at least not from his voice. Her legacy, then, is unending. Her life is a supreme example of the impact that one faithful Christian can have upon countless other lives—it takes consistency, courage, dedication, and patience. It takes an undying faith in Jesus Christ and in the power of His word. Jean is survived by her husband, J. Wayne McKamie; four sons, Charles McKamie and wife Susie; Carlis McKamie and wife Tina; David McKamie and wife Valorie; and Brian McKamie; eleven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Ronnie Wallace, a long-time friend to Jean and Wayne, did a scripture reading and offered a prayer. It was an honor to share the pulpit with Jerry Dickinson in officiating the funeral service.

—Joe Norton.

## Field Reports

Don L. King, 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550, old\_paths@juno.com, June 14. If the Lord be willing, we plan to attend the 4th of July meeting in Springfield, MO for a few days before going on to Weatherford, TX for a meeting beginning on Wednesday after the 4th of July. The Covid 19 situation has been long, tragic, and difficult, but things appear to be improving in many places. We thank God for that! We look forward to seeing many friends and brethren at both places if all goes well. The church at home is preparing for our meeting with Cullen Smith next Lord's Day and we pray for a great meeting. We have the new songbooks and have been practicing for several weeks now. Preachers, don't forget the paper, please. Send us your articles and reports by the 12th so we can send the copy to the printers on the 15th. Lord bless us all.

David Griffin, Lebanon, MO 65536, deg20@protonmail.com, June 2021. It seems like things in this part of the country are beginning to look more like normal. Some of the local mandates are being lifted which we trust will result in more freedom for the churches to do their work without this hindrance. Since last reporting to the paper, I was privileged to hold a meeting in Dothan, AL (early April). This was a wonderful time for me personally. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet brothers and sisters that I had not known before and to be with old friends. The crowds were still a little hampered by concerns about the virus, but all went well. I appreciate Kevin and Bethany Presley (and girls) for putting me up for the week. May God bless them and the church

there. I am also looking forward to a meeting in August in Edmond, OK. God bless all His people!

Paul O. Nichols, 14217 Rosehill, Overland Park, KS, pon.wjn.ks@juno.com. Some of the best news we have received recently is that the Supreme Court of our country has ruled that the Freedom of Religion is absolute, and state law cannot transcend it. It was especially made for California where the governor was attempting to overstep his authority and was violating federal law. If it is the decision of the Supreme Court, to me it appears to be the law for all states. If not, why not? The governor of California may lose his job as a result. The Stony Point congregation of Kansas City meets three times a week in the church building, and has not met elsewhere in spite of restrictions. We have not been bothered by civil authority, and have had one baptism and several confessions of fault and we have had many visitors to our services, in spite of the restrictions of local authority. We have had one three day meeting and are now preparing for a week long meeting. "If God be for us who can be against us" We sympathize with other brethren who have suffered and have had to make difficult decisions during these difficult times May the Lord bless us as we strive to do what is scriptural and right.

Stan Owens, 8432 Cox Rd West Chester, OH 45069, June 3rd. In March I was at the congregation in Imperial, Nebraska. It is always a pleasure to be there. Congregations near that area always turn out well to support the meeting. We were glad to make our home with Dan and Mary Parker while in that area. They always make us feel right at home. In April we had our Spring meeting with Bill Ferguson. It is always great to be around him and Ruth. We still miss them being in our area. Unfortunately, I had covid/pneumonia and was in the hospital for 5 days so I missed the first few nights of the meeting. I did get to hear recordings of them while in the hospital, but it was even better to hear him preach in person. I have also been privileged to hear Philip Scott, Robby Barron, Brandon Stephens, Richard Bunner, and Carl Johnson. These men are great Gospel Preachers, and I appreciate the work they do in the Kingdom. I still have books available containing Dad's sermons on The Church At Ephesus. If you are interested, send \$20 for each copy, along with your address, and I will get it sent out right away. Lord willing, we look forward to being with the congregations for our summer meetings. Keep The Faith.

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## WALKS THROUGH THE BIBLE...

### FAHRENHEIT 451 (BOOK BURNING)

By JERRY DICKINSON

“Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him. And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe’s knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth. Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words. Nevertheless Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah implored the king not to burn the scroll; but he would not listen to them.” (Jeremiah 36:22-25)

Jehoiakim was the second son of good king Josiah, but unlike his father he was obstinate and a frivolous egotist. He had tattooed himself with idolatrous marks in clear violation of Leviticus 19:28. “You shall not make any cutting in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the LORD.” He refused to heed the preaching of Jeremiah who called on the nation to surrender and accept the judgment of God on the nation because of their sin. The Babylonians were coming to destroy Jerusalem and only by surrendering to them would the nation be spared complete devastation. Of course, that was an unwelcome message and poor Jeremiah was persecuted mercilessly as the bearer of bad news.

Nebuchadnezzar had installed Jehoiakim as a vassal king and as long as he behaved himself the Babylonian tyrant left him and the Jews alone, but Jehoiakim rebelled and in fury the Babylonians came and put down the rebellion. Most of the princes of Israel were carried away in chains, including Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Jehoiakim himself was put in chains to be carried away but died on the way; and instead of being buried was cast by the side of the road like a dead animal. In fact, Jeremiah had prophesied that he would be “buried like a dead donkey.” (Jeremiah 22:18-21) A horrific end to a perniciously wicked man!

Just a few months before his demise the king was in his winter palace in our month of December. It was cold and there was a fire in the hearth. Jeremiah had written down his latest prophesy and it was about to be read to the king. The message was the same -repent, accept God’s judgment on the nation, and surrender to the Chaldeans or perish. Jehoiakim grabbed the writing, cut it up with his knife, and threw it into the fire. Only three of the king’s ministers dared to speak up and they implored him not to burn the message from the LORD. Apparently, Jehoiakim thought that by burning the scroll God’s word would fail, but of course he was dead wrong, no pun intended! The Lord told Jeremiah to rewrite the message and an appendix was added that spelled out the terrible doom of the nation and Jehoiakim. Burning the book could not alter or annul God’s Word!

In 1953 the novelist Ray Bradbury wrote a book entitled Fahrenheit 451. The story was about a future society where books were banned, confiscated, and burned. The main character is a fireman who comes to see the danger in burning books and, along with others, begins a movement to stop the burning. The title refers to the auto ignition temperature of paper. At 451 degrees Fahrenheit paper will burst into flames. Most of us, as kids, used a magnifying glass to catch paper on fire. 451 degrees is, theoretically at least, how hot the paper has to get to burst into flame. Ray Bradbury’s novel is, of course, about burning books. There have been book burnings throughout the history of the world. During the French Revolution and the Holocaust books considered seditious by the State were banned and burned. The Bible was banned and burned under the Emperor Diocletian who even bragged that he had destroyed all copies of the New Testament. A short time after his death, however, multiple copies of the New Testament writings were found to have been hidden and preserved by Christians. Burning the paper on which God’s word is written will not nullify or alter the message. Heaven and earth will pass away, Jesus declared, but the Word of the Lord will endure forever!

Most people do not have the temerity, like Jehoiakim, to literally cut out a part of the Bible and throw it in the fire, but many still try to nullify plain scriptures by arguing they do not apply today as they did in Biblical times. The times and the culture has changed and therefore what Paul and the other Apostles commanded early Christians are not applicable to us in the twenty first century. It all amounts to the same thing that Jehoiakim tried to do so long ago. Out of sight, out of mind. Just ignore the scripture, do not read it, or preach it; and it is annulled. God’s Word is still here while all those who sought to burn it are gone! Long gone - into eternity!

Last eve I passed by the blacksmith’s door, And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;

Then looking in, I saw upon the floor, Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

How many anvils have you had, said I, To wear and batter all these hammers so?

Just one, said he, and then with twinkling eye, The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.

And so, I thought, the Anvil of God’s Word, For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;

Yet, though the noise of beating blows was heard, The Anvil is unharmed, hammers all gone!