

the barometer to change the storm. What is needed today for the present generation is for us to be what they were in the first century, and the only way that can be accomplished is to preach and do what they did then by the guidance of the inspired apostles. The **now** generation needs exactly what the **then** generation needed, and that is the gospel, *which is God's power to save.*" Another gospel will produce something different from the church of the Lord. Is that what we want? I should hope not!

# The Carriage Drive Messenger



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NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

This section removed to preserve member's privacy

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## TIMES OF SERVICES

**Sunday:** Bible Study 10:00am  
Morning Worship 10:50am  
Evening Worship 6:00pm  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study 7:30pm

## CHALLENGING ERROR

by Bob Pulliam

A quick glance around us shows that many claiming to follow the scriptures are getting their religion from the world. I had one man object to my radio condemnation of Hope Sunday at the North Beckley church last Sunday. He could not find a scripture to justify their activity. Try as he might, there is no justification from God's word. All other listeners just shrugged off my challenge for Bible authority. Authority has become irrelevant in modern religion. We used to be able to get a few people to step up and defend their practices in debate. But no more. I suppose what bothered me more than anything is that this fellow at North Beckley felt that the elders and preacher there should not be challenged at all. To do so would be to "sow the seeds of discord". That means we should let error reign, in whatever form or degree it appears!

I would be concerned about being a member at a church where teachings and activities cannot be challenged. And just as bad is the unwillingness to stand up and defend one's own teachings and practices.

They will quibble about the good they do, but do not be afraid to stand up and demand book, chapter, and verse. Where does the church have the authority to feed the community, and set up tents for community services to operate out of? The church paid for it, so it was a work of that church. Now, can we find it in the New Testament?...

## DO WE CARE WHO WE ARE?

by Leon Odom

I have had a saying for a great number of years, and that is, "If we do today what the disciples did in the first century, we will be today what they were then." I believe that is a good **philosophy** to embrace. But the question which comes to my mind is this: "Who cares?" I can speak only for myself. I care who I am. I care whether or not I am identified by my Lord as a faithful Christian. Just as sure as God is, so will be the Day of Judgment. It is recorded in II Corinthians 5:10, "*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*"

Let the reader pick up, along with this scribe, on the expression "...*things he hath done whether it be good or bad.*" The great apostle to the Gentiles once declared, "*And whatever you do in word or deed (emp. mine, L.O.), do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him*" (Colossians 3:17). I think it is universally accepted by the scholarship of the world that the expression "**in the name of**" is to be rendered "**by the authority of**". Whatever we do as the people of God we should be able to say "**We do so by the authority of the Lord Jesus.**" After all, Jesus Himself said, "*All authority hath been given unto me both in heaven and on earth*" (Mt 28:18). If we would only revere the mandates of God, as the New Testament reveals them, we would be able to give account of the things we practice, and find the good pleasure of God in so doing. What things can we do, in the realm of religion, that are considered good? Surely every reader would answer that the things which God has authorized would be considered to be good. Would not the antithesis of that (the bad) be considered as all that God has not authorized? I think so.

Neighbor, do we really care whether or not we are the same religiously as the apostles, who were under the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit? Every person, or every group of people, demonstrate their concern by the way they treat the teaching of the New Testament. Do you ever wonder why many of us call **denominationalism** in question? Can you imagine agreeing to endorse all churches of human origin, and the practices of these religious bodies, while at the same time desiring to be what the apostles were part of in the first century? Why are we finding so many of these ultra-liberal teachers in churches of Christ wanting to change the old Jerusalem gospel to "meet the needs of the new or now generation?" I can tell you the reason for that. Many members of the church of Christ have lost their faith in, and respect for the inspired Word of God. If they have

not lost their respect for the Word of God, as revealed in the New Testament, why would not that same old gospel that the apostles preached meet the needs of the twenty-first century man, as it did the first century man?

Just a casual glance at the churches in some areas will demonstrate the point I am trying to labor with you. One church in Houston has endorsed women playing a public role in the services of God's people, in spite of what was practiced in the first century while the apostles were at the forefront. In Dallas, Texas there is a brazen effort to bring into the worship of the church the instrument of music. In order to do this folks must completely ignore the plain and positive statement made by the apostle to Timothy, the evangelist. Paul declared to him, "*Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence*" (I Tim 2:11f). So far as these zealots in Dallas are concerned, they must ignore every verse of Scripture in the New Testament which deals with our worship in singing praises unto the Father. In all nine passages in the New Testament (Mt 26:30; Mk 14:26; Acts 16:25; Rom 14:9; I Cor 14:15; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Heb 2:12; 13:15; Jms 5:13) dealing with music of the church of the Lord today? Eddy Ketchersid, minister for the Farmers Branch Church of Christ in the Dallas area said, "**The outreach includes young people, so some changes are the result of trying to reach a new generation.**" He is telling us that the old gospel, which the apostles preached, and the practice of the first century church of Christ, cannot meet the needs of this new age. Brother Ketchersid, shame on you.

Beloved friends, the church of Christ was established on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of our Lord, and is recorded in Acts 2. The apostles, being inspired of God, directed the worship and the organization of God's people. Time and again these inspired men warned brethren about trusting in the wisdom of man rather than the wisdom of God (I Cor 1:21-31). The admonitions were abundant to "*speak as the oracles of God*" (I Peter 4:11). Paul wrote Timothy, "*Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine, and continue in them: For in doing this, thou shalt save thyself, and them that hear thee*" (I Tim 4:16). To the church in Colosse the apostle warned, "*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ*" (Col 2:8). The immutability of Jesus Christ is clearly taught in the Bible. "*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever*" (Hebrews 13:8). Just so is the Word of God we know as the Holy Bible. "*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall never pass away*" (Mt 24:35).

Dear people, what I have been trying to say to you is that changing the Word of God to fit a certain generation is just as useless as destroying