

CHRISTIANS IN THE VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS?

Without doubt this has become one of the most startling "revelations" that has come to our attention these past few years. Perhaps even more surprising is its source. It is a most curious thing for this writer to see how some who have in the past been strong defenders of the faith could now herald such foolishness. Sadly, we have come to expect this kind of teaching from many. This stance not only shows a departure from the Book, but shows an embarrassing ignorance of denominational doctrine on the part of those who so subscribe.

If there are, as some brethren contend, "sincere, devout and knowledgeable Christians in all the denominations," pray tell us, **HOW DID THEY GET THERE?** Which denominations teach God's plan for salvation? Which denominations will baptize believers into Christ for the remission of sins (as the Bible defines that)? Which denomination will tolerate said "Christians" within their ranks without trying to correct their "legalistic" thinking? Unto which denomination has God added His saved?

Brethren, the **truth** of the matter is ***you will find NO denomination that teaches the gospel plan of salvation!*** The only Christians that you will find there are certainly **not** knowledgeable or else they would not be seen there. Those people who are there are either apostate brethren or children of the devil. Christians are found where they have always been found . . . in the Lord's church (Acts 2:47; I Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:22,23; 5:23).

ANOTHER CASE OF A.I.D.S.

The church of our Lord is suffering from another case of AIDS. We do not at all mean the physical malady known as Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome, but a spiritual ailment that is much more deadly. We speak of the Addition of Innovations to the Detriment of the Saints.

Brethren, the church has suffered from AIDS in many cases in times past. Even the apostles knew there would be those who would add something to what was written (I Corinthians 4:6), perverting the doctrine of Christ (II John 9), adulterating the Gospel (Galatians 1:6-9), and prescribing destructive heresies to their own destruction (II Peter 2:1; 3:16).

More recent cases of AIDS have been: the use of man-made machinery to accomplish the church's work of benevolence or evangelism (various societies). Some brethren are trying to introduce more of these today (different kinds of "marathons" to raise money from the unbelieving for the Lord's work)!

Another case of AIDS has been in the realm of "ministries." My, there are more "ministries" in some churches than members, it seems. Some of the most ridiculous ministries are being touted by some brethren. One of the more humorous "ministries" we have heard of late is the "Attendance Card Re-Stocking Ministry." But, perhaps one of the most dangerous cases of AIDS is the current trend for many to be involved in the "Let's Get Rid of the Outdated Church of Christ Image" ministry.

Coming largely from the younger, less experienced (though more highly educated [?] in the secular sense) "preachers," these seem bent on destroying the distinctive nature, message and life of the Lord's church, only to replace it with an upbeat, unity in diversity, hand-clapping, antinomian conglomerate of libertines and spiritual sophisticates who are woefully ignorant of the Scriptures, as well as the true nature of the Lord and His church! These are generally and quickly recognized by their use of such terms as: "traditionalist viewpoint"; "different or new hermeneutic"; "watchdog attitudes"; "sharing ministry" and "celebration of worship." Good reader, when you hear these terms (and others just as vague), please beware! The speaker is likely one who is promoting fellowship with error, rebellion against authority or undermining the binding implications of Biblical statements.

Let us be determined to see that this newest case of AIDS runs a short course. Let us head it off--encourage all to "speak as the oracles of God" (I Peter 4:11), and get away from this new, vague nomenclature that many times leads to liberal attitudes and actions.

Sermon Notes:

“New Testament Preaching”

- The sermons found in the New Testament came from God:
- From the _____,
- From the _____,
- And directed by the _____.
- The sermons found in the New Testament came through _____ men.
- The sermons found in the New Testament were to be delivered to _____ men.
- The sermons found in the New Testament were to be for the _____ of all men.
- Two basic reasons New Testament sermons were preached: to teach men to _____, and to prepare them for _____.

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Evening: 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Study: 7:30 p.m.

Preachers:

James Grayson
614-409-0941

Robin W. Haley
614-751-1082

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**Weekly Item Needed:
Paper towels**

Wednesday's Wisdom:

“We must understand the WORDS God gives; it takes study to know and understand His words. In this way we will be approved and be able to answer and help others to understand.”
Zach Haley

Men's Business Meeting Notes are available.

Ladies' night out at Cheryl Haley's, Thursday, May 27 at 6:30 pm for a salad supper.

Question/Answer night is next Sunday. Need questions, please. Rh

Sermon Preview:

- New Testament preaching came from God.
- New Testament preaching came through men.
- New Testament preaching came to all men.
- New Testament preaching came for all men.
- To live right and prepare for eternity.