

WHEN CHURCH IS BORING

What do you do when you find church is boring? It's time for a change! Now the question is, change what? Many folks think the answer is to change the church. I just read an article about a new church created for men only, men who find the church boring. Discarding more traditional environments, they meet in a gymnasium one Saturday evening a month. A rock band provides entertainment. The preacher speaks in front of the scoreboard, with the clock running. He guarantees to have them out in one hour! This sort of innovation is not unusual. Many religious leaders hail it as a positive development, a way to reach out to those who otherwise would have no interest in church.

Some might not go that far, yet they still insist on change. Contemporary music, drama, and short sermons that are little more than pep talks are the order of the day. Clapping and cheering have replaced old fashioned amens. Celebration and praise are the buzzwords, with the world's calendar dictating the subject celebrated.

Malachi lived at a time when people found "church" boring. Speaking of Israel's worship, God said through the Prophet, "You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!' And you disdainfully sniff at it" (Mal. 1:13)

God proposed two changes to these who turned up their noses at His worship. One was to just stay home. "Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you" (v. 10). The better solution, the change He preferred, was to repent, "If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name," says the Lord of hosts "then I will send the curse upon you" (2:2). Notice that God did not approve changing the structure or activities of worship to accommodate individual tastes.

The preacher can work to make his sermons more interesting, the song leader can try to select more meaningful hymns, and the one who leads the prayer can give more thought to what he says. However, when worship as God directed is boring, the main change that is needed is in the heart of the worshiper.

- by Frank Himmel (bulletin, Winfield Church of Christ, Winfield, WV)



God's laws last longer than those who break them.

News Notes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: To Harry "Pooch" Huff who will be 94 this **Thursday, Nov. 20th**. Best wishes to him.

BRING A TURKEY TO CHURCH: By **next Sunday, Nov. 23rd**. Help others in need to have a blessed holiday season.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: **Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m.** on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each **Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** All ladies welcome.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Each **Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-Noon**. Open to all.

PANTRY: Canned chicken.

HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION? Please submit in writing to Bro. Rico before **Sunday, Nov. 30th**. Questions will be considered and answered on that date at the p.m. service as time allows.

MEETING: **Sunday, Nov. 30th at 3:30 p.m.** for **Brett Thompson** at the Thompson home (Derek & Pam). Prayers requested.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: **Jackie Brown** (Rico's mother) in Orlando Regional Hospital, Orlando, FL. After some recent testing, Sis. Brown is to have surgery this coming week.

SICK & SHUT-IN: *At Home:* John Sprout, Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Brian Haught (Skip's brother), Micheal Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father). *Serra Manor, Weirton:* Jean Haught (Skip's mother). *Fox, Chester:* Mary Johnson. *Elsewhere:* Herman McHan, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.

Handling Accurately

Thomas Baxley

It is always a good time to be reminded that Christians are charged to handle the Word of truth "accurately" (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB). Handling accurately ("rightly dividing" KJV) the Word is something that takes time to learn to do and is something that should never be taken for granted. There have always been calls to ignore the Bible in favor of some other document or to just ignore it all together, supposedly because it is wrong or outdated. We cannot afford to fall in those traps, no matter who tries to lure us or for what reason someone tries to lure us. A person might try to lure us away to accept a doctrine not taught in Scripture or something that perhaps Scripture teaches against. Some may try to lure us into thinking that God really does not know best what is good for His creation today, trying to convince us that His laws are outdated. The reason for the call of diligence is that sometimes people will attempt to use the Bible to justify false teaching; this is why Bible study is so important. Keep studying so that you may handle the Word of truth accurately and to never be fooled by anyone with an agenda.

- Gospel Gazette online