

Seek The Old Paths

“Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths...and walk therein” (Jeremiah 6:16)

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Identifying The True Church

Rodney V. Rutherford

THERE are multitudes of denominations in the world today. Each one wears a different name and teaches a different doctrine from all the others. Yet each one claims to be following God's way. Can all of them be right? Is God the author of such confusion? Many sincere seekers after salvation despair of ever finding God's true church.

How can one identify the true church? The opinions of men, human creeds, and human traditions do not qualify as an authoritative standard by which we may learn God's will. God has, however, revealed to us his inspired, inerrant, complete will in the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; Jude 3). It is to the scriptures we must go to learn of God's church (Isaiah 8:20).

**BUILT ACCORDING TO THE
PATTERN**

God has always given a pattern when he wanted something built. Noah was given a pattern for the ark (Genesis 6:14-16). In order to please God he followed the pattern in every detail (Genesis 6:22). Moses was given a pattern for the tabernacle which he followed in every detail (Exodus 25:9,40; 39:32). Later, when the temple was erected, it was built according to God's pattern which he had revealed to David who in turn revealed it to his son, Solomon (I Chronicles 28:11-21).

It is not surprising then that one also finds a pattern for God's church in the New Testament (Romans 6:17; 2 Timothy 1:13; Hebrews 8:1-5). To identify the true church we must go to the pattern given in the New Testament. If a church is built according to God's pattern in every essential detail, we know that we have found the true church. If a church is built from a

different pattern than the one in God's Word or differs in any essential detail from the New Testament pattern, we can know for certain that it is not the true church.

CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

In the New Testament pattern we learn that Jesus Christ is the **builder, foundation, and head** of his church. When Simon Peter confessed "*thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,*" Jesus replied, "*...thou art Peter and upon this rock, I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH*" (Matthew 16:13-20). That Peter was not the rock upon which the church was built is clearly seen in the Bible. "*For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ*" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Jesus' promise to build his church was made before his death, burial, and resurrection. Later, after he had fulfilled his mission on earth and returned to the Father, he sent forth the Holy Spirit upon his apostles to guide them into all truth (John 16:13; Acts 2:1ff). On the first Pentecost following his resurrection, Jesus' inspired apostles proclaimed for the very first time the gospel in its fullness. When sinners cried out, "*What shall we do?*" they were told to "*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...*" (Acts 2:36-38). About three thousand souls were obedient to the gospel commands and were added by the Lord to his church (Acts 2:41, 47). This marks

the beginning of Christ's church.

Jesus Christ is the only head of his church. Before his ascension to heaven, Jesus had declared: "*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth*" (Matthew 28:18). No mention is made of any earthly head of the church. Instead, the scriptures plainly say, "*And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the church*" (Colossians 1:18).

Since Christ is the builder, foundation, and head of the true church, it is altogether fitting that the church and its members honor him by wearing his name rather than the name of some man, location, or doctrine. In the New Testament therefore, we read of the "*churches of Christ*" (Romans 16:16). Individual members of the church are called simply "Christians" (Acts 4:12; 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16).

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

Under Christ the head, autonomous congregations of the body meet in the various geographical localities (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:2). Each congregation is independently governed by men which are known as "elders" or "presbyters," "shepherds" or "pastors," and "bishops" or "overseers." These are all descriptive titles for the same office or work (Acts 20:17,28; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4). These men were always a plurality and were over only their own local congregation (Acts 14:23). Nowhere in the New Testament do we read of councils, synods, or conferences ruling over the local congrega-

tion.

Deacons are servants of the church who work under the oversight of the elders in the local congregation (Philippians 1:1). Both elders and deacons must meet specific qualifications before they can serve in their respective offices (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1). Evangelists are preachers of the gospel who also serve under the elders (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

God has given a pattern of worship for his church in the New Testament just as surely as he gave a pattern of worship for Israel in the Old Testament (John 4:23-24). Unlike the elaborate ritual of many modern denominations, the worship of the Lord's church is simple and appeals to the spiritual rather than the physical.

The New Testament pattern of worship consists of five specific acts. First, **singing** psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is a prescribed act of worship (Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16). Instrumental music is not a part of the New Testament pattern of worship. It was added centuries after the New Testament was written by the apostate, corrupt Roman Church (2 John 9-11; Revelation 22:18-19). Choirs are also a later addition to God's pattern of worship. Every Christian is to join his voice with every other Christian in singing God's praises.

Second, the **Lord's supper** consisting of fruit of the vine and unleavened bread is eaten every Lord's day in

memory of Jesus who gave his body and shed his blood for our sins (Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). Third, prayers to God our Father through Jesus Christ our mediator, are a vital element of true worship (Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 2:1-8). Fourth, the exposition of God's Word is an important item of God's pattern of worship for his church (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7). Fifth, Christians worshipping according to the New Testament pattern **give of their means** as God has prospered them (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7). No other means of raising funds for Christ's church than this weekly freewill offering is taught in the New Testament.

WORK OF THE CHURCH

Many modern churches are little more than social clubs. Some are more concerned with politics, psychology, and sociology than things of a spiritual nature. The true church is concerned with the God-given avenues of service stated in the New Testament. Of primary importance is the work of preaching the gospel of Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 10:13-15; 2 Timothy 2:2). Any church that is not missionary in nature and spirit from center to circumference is not the true church, nor indeed, can it be!

A further work of the church is to help the needy. By caring for widows, orphans, and others in need, the church practices pure religion (James 1:27). Individual Christians as well as the

church as a body are charged with helping the needy as opportunity presents itself (Matthew 25:31-46). Benevolence is extended by the true church to the needy whether saint or sinner, (Galatians 1:2; 6:10).

TERMS OF ADMISSION

The church was purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28). To be in Christ is to be in his church (Ephesians 1:7; Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 12:13). Therefore, membership in Christ's church is essential to salvation. But how does one become a member of Christ's church, or, in other words, what must one do to be saved?

The Word of God is the seed of the kingdom (Luke 8:11). This seed must be planted in the hearts of men (James 1:18,21; 1 Peter 1:22-23). It will produce **FAITH** in Christ when planted in good and honest hearts (Luke 8:15; Romans 10:17; John 8:24). True faith expresses itself in obedience (James 2:20-26; Hebrews 5:8-9). Faith will lead one to **REPENT** of all his past sins (Acts 2:38; 17:30-31). Repentance is a change of the mind toward sin. It is brought about by godly sorrow and results in reformation of life (Matthew 21:28-29; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Matthew 3:8). True faith will also lead one to **CONFESS** that "*Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God*" (Acts 8:37; Romans 10:8-10).

One's obedience to the gospel is not completed until he is "*buried with christ in BAPTISM*" (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12). Baptism saves (Mark 16:16;

1 Peter 3:21). It washes away sins (Acts 22:16). It is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). It puts one into the body of Christ which is the church (1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 1:18). There is no such thing in the Word of God as an unbaptized Christian!

WHERE DO YOU STAND?

Where do you stand, dear reader? Is the church of which you are a member the church we read about in the New Testament? Is it built according to the pattern in every essential detail? If it is lacking in any of them, it is not the true church!

Or, perhaps you are looking for the true church? Do not accept a substitute. Do not take a chance. Take your stand upon the Bible and it alone. One cannot go wrong by following God's Word. Become a member of Christ's true church today by following the Divinely given terms of admission.

Please contact us if we may be of assistance to you in your quest for truth and salvation.

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The Church In Prophecy

R. W. GRAY

Much misunderstanding regarding the church results from baseless, uninformed averments of religious leaders in high places. In an obvious effort to bolster the waning popularity of the unfounded tenets of premillennialism, Charles F. Stanley, former President of the Southern Baptist Convention, told a vast TV audience, "The church is not mentioned in the Old Testament."

While many Baptist do not subscribe to Stanley's reckless affirmation, the insidiously dangerous doctrine of premillennialism evokes a deluge of inaccurate statements. False theories demand the assistance of baseless arguments for their existence. Seldom, however, does one of Mr. Stanley's stature resort to an extreme so great. Those who view his telecasts know that the Atlanta based preacher is generally more guarded, and is basically conservative in his approach to the Bible; especially as it has to do with the idea of inerrancy of scripture and moral issues facing today's world.

Numerous passages might be adduced in refutation of the well known preacher's groundless affirmation. One or two more familiar texts, however, may prove more beneficial to truth seekers than a dozen or more obscure, less studied, Bible statements.

PURCHASED BY BLOOD

Prior to his ascension Jesus told two disciples that according to the "prophets" it was necessary that "Christ" suffer that he might enter into his glory (Luke 24:13-26). He later told eleven that "*all things must be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning me.*" In view of this he said, "*Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem*" (Luke 24:44-47).

Peter affirmed that Christ's rejection by the Jews, and his subsequent crucifixion, was in fulfillment of God's determinate counsel and foreknowledge. In his first letter the same apostle affirms that Jesus' shed blood by which we are redeemed was "*foreordained before the foundation of the world*" (Acts 2:12; 1 Peter 1:18-20).

Paul informs us that Christ shed his blood for the church (Ephesians 5:25-26; Acts 20:28ff). He affirmed also that the church was in God's "eternal purpose" (Ephesians 3:8-11).

Peter also preached that the Old Testament prophets foresaw the resurrection and coronation of Christ at God's right hand (Acts 2:29-36). Paul writes that Christ was raised from the dead to occupy a place in the heavens where he was given to be the head "*over all things to the church, which is his body*" (Ephesians 1:20-23).

What have we learned from the

foregoing?

(1) The sacrifice of Christ was foretold by the Old Testament writers, and was, therefore, in God's eternal purpose (Isaiah 53; Acts 8:28-33; 1 Peter 1:20).

(2) The church was purchased, redeemed, and sanctified by that same sacrifice (Ephesians 5:26; Acts 20:28). How may the price which bought the church be mentioned in the Old Testament while that which was purchased by that price not be mentioned? It is because such is impossible that we read, *"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord..."* (Ephesians 3:10-11).

(3) We saw that Christ's resurrection and coronation were in keeping with Old Testament prophecy (Acts 2:23-36). We also note that Christ was raised from the dead that he might be given to be head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:19-23). It follows that since Christ's resurrection and coronation are mentioned by Old Testament prophets, the church over which he was placed as head as a result was mentioned as well.

THE LORD'S HOUSE

According to Micah 4:1-7 and Isaiah 2:1-4, the Lord's house was to be established in Jerusalem *"in the last days."* According to Acts 2:16-21, Joel's prophecy concerning the outpouring of the Spirit *"in the last days"* was fulfilled in

Jerusalem on the first Pentecost following our Lord's resurrection (Joel 2:28-32). It was on that same day, in that same city, that the Lord first added the saved to his church (Acts 2:47). In a letter to Timothy, Paul affirms that the church is the Lord's house (1 Timothy 3:15; Cf. Hebrews 10:21).

We see, then, that *"in Jerusalem"* in *"the last days"* the *"Lord's house,"* which is *"the church,"* was established in keeping with the prophetic statements of the Old Testament.

It can be demonstrated that the **kingdom of Christ and the church of Christ are used interchangeably by inspired writers, thus showing that they are one and the same institution.** The numerous references to the coming kingdom are therefore references to the church (Colossians 1:12-14, 24; Hebrews 12:22-28).

Types in the law of Moses were but shadows of the coming church age, the house the Lord built (See Hebrews chapter nine and ten.) These are but a few examples of many showing that the church is indeed mentioned, i.e., anticipated by the Old Testament (1 Peter 1:10-12).

It is important that this truth be understood if one is to see the fallacy of premillennialism. But more than that, it is important we learn that God is to be *"glorified in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen"* (Ephesians 3:21). ♦

<p>"Prepare to meet thy God" Amos 4:12</p>
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Questions & Answers

Garland M. Robinson

WHY AM I A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

God has not left it to the judgment of the individual as to what is right and wrong in religion; nor has he given men a choice in regard to what church they can belong to, as so many declare.

Jesus came to establish one kingdom, which is his church/body, (Matthew 16:18-19; Mark 9:1). There is "one body...one faith" (Ephesians 4:4-5). The one body is identified as the "church" (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18). Jesus is the saviour of the body (Ephesians 5:23). Do you think he will save any other body than his? In Matthew 15:13 he said he would not: "*Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, SHALL BE ROOTED UP!*" Don't you want to be in the Lord's church?

God has certain principles and laws that must be obeyed: "**Forget not my law,**" "**Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye**" (Proverbs 3:1; 7:2). Sin is a violation of God's law (1 John 3:4). Everyone then must abide by the Lord's way. What seems right to men is the way of death (Proverbs 16:25). It is not in man to direct his own steps (Jeremiah 10:23). I must follow God's directions and be

faithful to his commands. When I do, he adds me to the body of the saved which is his church (Acts 2:38,41,47). I have no choice in the matter.

Why then am I a member of the church of Christ? Let me list a number of reasons with appropriate scripture:

Because it is scriptural in organization. It has *elders* that oversee (Acts 20:28) and *deacons* that serve (Acts 6:1-7). It has no higher authority on earth than the local congregation. There are no earthly headquarters or legislating body to make rules. Every congregation appeals to the Bible and answers to God (Philippians 3:20).

Because it requires no more or less than that which is set forth in the scriptures. First Thessalonians 5:21 declares: "*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*" Colossians 3:17 demands authority for everything said and done. The church of Christ works and speaks as the "oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11).

Because it is scriptural in its worship. The church of Christ (Romans 16:16) in the Bible worshipped by: *singing* without instrumental accompaniment (Ephesians 5:19), *praying* (Acts 2:42), *giving* (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), *partaking the Lord's supper* the first day of every week (Acts 20:7), and *preaching* (Acts 20:7).

Because it is the fulfillment of divine prophecy – God's eternal purpose. Ephesians 3:1-11 explains this well. The Lord's church is not an accident or substitute. It is spoken of in Isaiah 2:1-4, Micah 4:1-4, Daniel 2:44. It is the eternal kingdom spoken of

throughout the ages by the holy prophets (cf. Acts 2:16).

Because it has the Bible as its only creed. The church of Christ has no manual, catechism or prayer book. The Bible is completely sufficient. *"...His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him...."* (2 Peter 1:3). *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It is the book from which all will one day be judged (John 12:48; Revelation 20:12). I want no other! How about you?

Because it is built according to the pattern in the New Testament. There is one builder and head, Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 3:3-6; Ephesians 1:22-23). *"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone"* (Ephesians 2:19-20). On what is your church built?

Because it has a Bible name. Why would a bride choose to wear a different name than the groom? *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12). *"The churches of Christ"* (Romans 16:16). What name does your church wear?

Because the gospel is its only

drawing power. Gimmicks and gadgets, food and fun, party and recreation will not save. Those drawn by such look for the "loaves and fishes" and will walk away when they are no more (John 6:26-27). Men are drawn by the gospel (John 6:44-45; 1 Corinthians 1:18-21). It is God's drawing power to save (Romans 1:16). Men are saved when they obey it (1 Peter 1:22; Romans 6:17-18; Hebrews 5:8-9; Matthew 7:21-23). What has drawn you to your church? Have you obeyed the gospel?

Because it is supported by the free-will offerings of its members. Collections are to be taken on the first day of the week from the membership. *"Now concerning the collection for the saints...Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him..."* (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). There is no Bible authority for fund raising of any sort: pie suppers, car washes, rummage sales, etc. What does your church do?

Because it stands for the purity of the gospel in doctrine and practice. Scripture demands we preach the gospel exactly as written. *"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed"* (Galatians 1:8-9). The Lord's church demands a *"thus saith the Lord"* (Colossians 3:17). Does your church?

Because it is scriptural in the plan of salvation. "Faith only" is the

doctrine of men, not God. It will cause those who espouse it to be lost (James 2:24; Matthew 15:9). For one to be saved, Jesus commanded to: Believe in Christ (John 8:24; Mark 16:16), Repent of sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30), Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:37), Be baptized in water (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). Leave out any one of these, and there is no salvation! What does your church believe and practice?

Because it is the church you read about in the New Testament. It is the same in organization and worship. It has no more and no less than the Bible requires. The church is the body of the saved (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:23). One enters the church upon

being baptized (Acts 2:38,41,47; 1 Corinthians 12:13). Have you been added to the Lord's body by being baptized (Acts 2:41,47)?

The church of Christ is Biblical in every way, rightly dividing the "Word of Truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). What about the church you belong to? Must one be a member of your church to go to heaven? If you answer "no", then why does your church exist? If one can go to heaven without being a member of your church, then why be a member of it, what purpose does it serve? Salvation is in Christ's church and his church alone, why be a member of anything else? God will root up all others (Matthew 15:13)! To which church do you belong?

THE CHURCH OF THE LORD IS...

The fulfillment of prophecy	Isaiah 2:2-3
The Object of Christ's promise	Matthew 16:18
The institution of all the saved	Acts 2:47
Purchased by the blood of Christ	Acts 20:28
The family of God	Ephesians 3:15
The kingdom of God	Matthew 16:18-19
The custodian of God's wisdom	Ephesians 3:10
The pillar and ground of the truth	1 Timothy 3:15
The house of God	1 Timothy 3:15
The group whom Christ will save	Ephesians 5:23
The body of which Christ is head	Ephesians 5:23
The bride of Christ	Romans 7:4
That for which Christ gave himself	Ephesians 5:25

(Continued from back page, **MISSION**)

himself up for it" (Ephesians 5:25). He purchased the church with his own blood (Acts 20:28). Even before his death, Jesus sacrificed for the church. *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich"* (2 Corinthians 8:9). He was rich in terms of heavenly and eternal values, yet he became poor, *"emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross"* (Philippians 2:7-8). Surely Christ would not have made such sacrifices for the church unless it was to have a mission in some measure worthy of its cost. What, then, is the mission of the church?

The question can be answered both negatively and positively. **It is not the mission of the church to furnish amusement for the world or even for its own members.** Innocent amusement in proper proportion has its place in the life of all normal persons, but it is not the business of the church to furnish it. The church would come off a poor second if it undertook to compete with institutions established for the express purpose of entertaining people. It would make itself ridiculous if it entered into such competition.

It is not the responsibility of the church as such to furnish recreation for its members. A certain amount of recreation is necessary to the health and happiness of the individual. All work

and no play makes Jack a dull boy, it is said, and rightly said; but it is not the function of the church to furnish the play. The church was not established to feature athletics. Rather it emphasizes the principle that *"bodily exercise is profitable for a little; but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life which now is, and of that which is to come"* (1 Timothy 4:8). Sometimes one would conclude, from the emphasis given to recreation, that godliness is profitable for a little, and that bodily exercise is profitable for all things.

For the church to turn aside from its divine work to furnish amusement and recreation is to pervert its mission. Amusement and recreation should stem from the home rather than the church.

For the church to turn aside from its divine work to furnish amusement and recreation is to pervert its mission. It is to degrade its mission. Amusement and recreation should stem from the home rather than the church. The church, like Nehemiah, has a great work to do; and it should not come down on the plains of Ono to amuse and entertain. As the church turns its attention to amusement and recreation, it will be shorn of its power as Samson was when his hair was cut. Only as the church becomes worldly, as it pillows its head on the lap of Delilah, will it want to turn from its wonted course to relatively

unimportant matters. Imagine Paul selecting and training a group of brethren to compete in the Isthmian games! Of his work at Corinth, he said: *“For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified”* (1 Corinthians 2:2). What then, is the work of the church?

On the day of Pentecost, the birthday of the church, we find it **preaching the gospel**. It is reasonable to expect the church, under the leadership of the apostles, to be engaged in its divinely assigned work. Christ, before his ascension, had laid upon his disciples (his church) the grave and momentous responsibility of preaching the gospel to every creature in every age of the world (Mark 16:15-16). During the lifetime of the apostles, the church was busily engaged in preaching the gospel to the remote ends of the earth. In his first epistle to Timothy, Paul said, *“These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly; but if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how men ought to behave themselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”* (3:14-15). The church is the “pillar and ground of the truth” – not truth in general, but rather truth in particular. The church must support and preach the gospel always as a part of its divine mission.

Further, the church in Jerusalem *“continued stedfastly in the apostles’ teaching.”* In addition to preaching the gospel to alien sinners, **the church taught and built up its own members** that they might *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour*

Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). The Lord has made ample provisions for the edification of his people, the church. *“He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ: till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error”* (Ephesians 4:11-14). **It is, therefore, the work of the church to promote the growth and development of its members.**

Finally, the church in Jerusalem **ministered to the material needs of its worthy poor** (Acts 4:32-37; 6:1-6). The Gentile churches sent help to the brethren in Judea (Acts 11:29-30; Romans 15:25-26). Paul said that he was always ready to help those in need (Galatians 2:10). It is a part of the work of the church to help those who are in need, but the church is under no obligation to help those who will not help themselves. *“If any will not work,”* said Paul, *“neither let him eat”* (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

If the church will discharge its duty in preaching the gospel, in edifying its members, and in helping the worthy poor, it will not have desire or time merely to amuse and entertain

(Gospel Advocate, May 20, 1948)

The Mission Of The Church

B. C. Goodpasture

Everything which God has made in creation and redemption has a mission. Nothing walks with aimless feet in the economy of God. The church is a divine institution — it is of divine origin. It, therefore, has a mission.

The building of the church was an expensive undertaking. The Lord could create the heavens and the earth without the shedding of a single drop of blood, but without shedding of his own blood he could not establish the church. "Christ also loved the church and gave

(Continued on page 10, MISSION)

GOD'S UNITY MOVEMENT

ONE BODY
ONE SPIRIT
ONE HOPE
ONE LORD
ONE FAITH
ONE BAPTISM
ONE GOD

Ephesians 4:4-6

The 5th Annual Mississippi Lectures are scheduled for July 29-Aug 2 at the East Main church of Christ in Tupelo (see page 4). If you need a schedule, please write us. The theme of this issue is the CHURCH. It is being attacked today from within with great force. People's attitude toward Truth and Bible authority is quickly changing. We must ever hold high the banner of God's Word for by it we will be judged. If you have a special theme you would like to see us deal with, please submit it for consideration. —gmr

Seek The Old Paths is a publication of the East Corinth church of Christ and is under the oversight of its elders. Its primary purpose and goal in publication can be found in Jude 3; II Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:13; 2:1; II Peter 1:12. Manuscripts are welcome.

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