

THE RESTORED CHURCH

Some of our preaching brethren are now teaching that the precious church of our Lord (which you can read about in your Bible and see the evidence of its existence today) has not been restored. It is their idea (not God's or faithful brethren) that the church is yet striving to restore the elusive church. Yes, such double talk as "the *church* always striving to restore the *church*" is characteristic of these fellows. Outside the buildings where they preach are signs that read "the church of Christ" or "the church of Christ meets here" and then they stand in their pulpits and say "the church is not restored."

Well, I would like to ask some questions: If the church of Christ is not restored, then what have I been preaching to the last twenty years? If the church is not restored, then how can I call myself a Christian, when the Bible teaches Christians are added to the church (Acts 2:47)? If the body of Christ (which is the church, Ephesians 1:22,23) has not been restored, then can Christ be my Savior since He only saves those in His body (Ephesians 5:23)? If the church is not restored, then is the seed (God's Word, Luke 8:11) so defective that it cannot produce a harvest of souls? I have always been under the impression that wherever the seed of the kingdom is planted, the germ of life within it would produce the church, the body of the saved believers. Am I wrong? If the church is not restored, has the gospel become so impaired that it cannot save me from my sin and add me to the number of the saved (Mark 16:15-16)? Oh please preacher, if the "gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost" (2 Cor. 4:3). I don't want to be lost! Please answer these questions, preacher! I need to know the answers. I want the blessed assurance that my soul is saved. Please answer me; for my soul's sake, please answer me!

It is realized that the church has not been restored in every location of the world, but this fact does not negate that the church has been restored somewhere. The church which meets at the corner of Green Plain Church road and

the Old Murray/Paris Highway near Murray, Kentucky, is a restored church. Yes, that claim is made without fear of contradiction of any man. We do not mean to be arrogant or pompous, but with God's Word as our witness, we confidently believe it.

Because the restored church has some brethren who are not behaving as they ought whether in attitude or in action, that does not nullify the existence of the restored church. There were unfaithful Christians in the church at Corinth, but they were "the church of God at Corinth" (1 Cor. 1:2). The divine side of the church is so right it cannot be wrong no matter how brethren misbehave! Yes, ungodly saints need to be restored to the Lord (Gal. 6:1-2), thus restoring fellowship with God (1 John 1:7), but in no way does that imply the church is not restored.

These preachers who speak of the church not being restored have forgotten the New Testament pattern of organization and worship which is evidence of the restored church.

The organizational pattern for the church is simple. Each local congregation is an independent society under the authority of Christ (Matt. 28:18; Col. 2:17). Each congregation is to have a plurality of qualified men to oversee the church (Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 3; Titus 1). When and where Christ has legislated, the church is obligated to obey without question. In all matters wherein Christ has not legislated (in matters of judgment), the church is to be guided by the law of expediency under the oversight of elders (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17). To assist the elders of the church in carrying out the mission of the church, a plurality of deacons are selected (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8-10). If saints restore this organization, have they restored the pattern? Absolutely!

Other proofs for the restored church can be cited and proven by scripture, but the point has been made: **The church has been restored and exists today wherever the gospel truth has been preached and obeyed.**

These preachers who believe and teach the church is not restored may very well be preaching for congregations which have abandoned the New Testament pattern for the restored

church. When they pervert the truth, the work and the worship of God, they have digressed. These churches need to repent and be restored!

One faithful gospel preacher (who believes the church restored) and I were discussing this matter, and he made an observation that is positively correct. He observed that any preacher who claims the church is not restored, and is only in a continual process of restoring, is making a claim of omniscience! In other words, he would have to know that every church in existence is not a restored church! He would be making himself comparable to God Almighty. If not, why not? However, he makes a claim which he cannot know, thus he teaches a falsehood.

Brethren, the church is in existence. The divine side of the church is so right, it cannot be wrong! The price paid for the church is right (Acts 20:28). Christ purchased the church with His own blood. The plea of the church is right (Luke 13:3). The plea of the church is for men to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9) The purpose of the church is right (Mark 16:15). The church is to "seek and save the lost" as Christ did (Luke 19:10). The people are right when they love and obey God (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3). The promise for the church is right (Col. 3:24-25). The promise is for an "inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away reserved in heaven for you" 1 Peter 1:4).

May God bless us to love and appreciate the church of Jesus Christ, and not tear it down with foolish man-made ideas.

Author Unknown from *The Encourager*

Saturday Bible Study Seminar

"Great Bible Words"

November 15 – 9:30 * 10:30 * 11:30 AM

39th Street Church of Christ

ANNIVERSARY

Ed and Verna Hanson, 11-11; 59th Congratulations!

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Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM); Tom Tucker.

Tom Tucker is being treated for an eye disorder. Steve Brown, Melissa Cole and Leah Thrasher all have broken bones healing at this time. Barbara James is recovering from her surgery. Tina Pflugradt is recovering from her surgery at home.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Paula Stillwell is vacationing in Hawaii this week. Wilba Hopkins is visiting relatives in Neosho, MO this weekend. Julia Thrasher is in Marietta, OK with her mother this week. Robin Brown was out of town last week on business. Chris Edwards was out of town last week on business. Clara Scott was out of town visiting with relatives last weekend.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

GUEST SPEAKER

Brother Eugene Jenkins will be our guest speaker on November 16, and will be giving a presentation of his mission work. We welcome the Jenkins to Olathe!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 52; Sunday PM, 37; Wednesday PM, 32.

Those To Serve

November 9, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Brown

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER Steve Brown
PRESIDE..... Jared Nelson
ASSIST..... Jeff Nemechek
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Joel Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson
LORD'S SUPPER..... Jared Nelson

WEDNESDAY 12th

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
INVITATION Jared Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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