

WHAT IS A PROGRESSIVE CHURCH?

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As the picture shows on the front cover the Progressive Church is one with the Trojan Horse standing in it.

A dear friend of mine, who has now passed away, wanted conservative Christian material to pass out showing the condition of our generation. The attached booklet was designed for this purpose and he started handing them out. One of the first people to receive one questioned what was meant by the "Progressive Church." We immediately stopped passing the booklets out until it was clarified. Hopefully this will clear the matter up.

John Dewey, the father of the Modern Progressive Educational System was an atheist. He set out to produce a new man made system that would separate itself from the old to the new. Always he held to the atheist doctrine. (See the Humanist Manifesto I and II for his philosophy) We now cannot mention God in our schools or place the 10 commandments on the walls.

John Dewey retired in 1933 and died in the 50's. His atheistic system has grown greatly since that time. Now it has spread to our courts, our laws, and every phase of our society. It now has enter our churches.

The "Progressive Church" is meant to show how strange fire has entered our churches and caused us to give out an uncertain sound to the world. We have departed from the old paths of the Bible and put on the New Ways of our modern society. This is the reason the Trojan Horse is shown in our churches.

What we believe to be modern and progressive is far from God and His word. Simply put, we now look to the hand of man rather than the hand of God.

PROGRESSIVE CHURCH ?

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UNCERTAIN SOUND

I Cor. 14:8, "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

Since the early time of man a sound has been used to alert the people from the ancient cities with the watchman on the wall to the modern day tornado siren. During World War II, a certain sound was given for air raids, and ships were put on alert. A certain sound was always given, and the intent was always known to alert the people.

If an uncertain sound is sent out from our churches, would this help to quench the spirit of God? What about us as individuals? Are we sending out uncertain sounds? Are we

divorced? Do we cheat on our taxes? Do we have beer in our refrigerators? Do we tell little white lies? Do we compromise the word of God not to make waves?

Do we see only good in hope that evil will flee from us? Do we talk only about good when evil abounds?

When Christ walked here on this earth he was more harsh towards the hypocrites than any other group.

Matt. 23:2-3, "Saying the scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."

We must do what we say, or our words are of none effect, whether it be from the positive or the negative, or if it is bitter or sweet.

A minister cannot lie and then preach the word of God from the stand and expect to be heard.

I know of a preacher who years ago quit smoking because he overheard two boys talking. One boy told the other he knew it was all right to smoke because his pastor smoked. He quit smoking.

We send out a message at all times. What is our message? Is this one of the reasons we have so much turmoil, strife, and confusion. Are we reaping what we sow? Gal. 6:7, ".....for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Are we currently in modern American progressive churches giving out an uncertain sound? The Bible says one thing and we do another. If we are fortunate, we are hearing the word of God preached from the stand. Does each interpret it according to his own belief (reason)?

The Bible is often reasoned away rather than accepting it as it is written. Although in most instances a child could understand what is being said, until we start to distort or reshape it according to our own needs.

How can the world know what God really expects of us or is alerting us to if we send out an uncertain sound? We would have confusion and turmoil rather than unity of purpose.

I Cor. 14:8, "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

Is this the reason we are not preparing ourselves to the battle? Do we really know what the certain sound is and what to listen for?

MINISTERS

In Amos 1:1 we find that Amos, who was among the herdsmen of Tekoa, was sent by the Lord. Amos 1:2 "And he said, The Lord will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem;--."

This day and age Amos would probably be asked what kind of degree he had and from what seminary he graduated. Amos was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees. He was not trained in any of the schools of the prophets. He was not a prophet by profession.

My wife and I were members of a small rural church in Kentucky years ago. As I understood it even back 40 yrs. ago, they wanted their pastors to have graduated from the seminary.

Which is better to have a minister of the living God called by God to minister to us with the message from God or to make sure he was educated in the proper fashion?

When I was a child, I did not know that there could be such a thing as a female pastor, and it was unthinkable for there to be Homosexual Ministers. I did not even know a minister could be divorced and pastor a church.

I Tim. 3:2 "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"

My, my, what changes man has made in the span of one life time. Man has been able to reason all sorts of escape mechanisms from the above mentioned scripture.

If our ministers are to be ensamples unto the flock (role models) so that others can follow, it appears to me that they should be the first to take a stand against the secular ways coming into our flocks. Perhaps many ministers do not come from Tekoa but from a hall of learning.

Why do ministers in most cases today refuse to point a finger at fellow preachers or brethren if they know they are doing or saying something contrary to God's word? Is it better to please man than God?

A minister should be called by God, sent by God, and carry the message of God. If this is true and you go against him, it would be as though you are going against God Himself.

If, however, any of the above are not true and we continue to follow in the wrong paths, we will be held accountable.

Luke 12:48, "----For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: ----"

It is a weighty matter for a person to say he is called of God, sent by God, and carrying the message of God. Jokes from the sacred stand? Human Interest? Psychology? Divorced? Kitchens in the house of the most high God? Flattery?

How can a people go astray except they are led? Sheep follow. What are we following? It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of an angry god. Much weight is placed on a Christian leader's shoulders.

Rom. 10:15 "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good

things!”

Paul was bold in his preaching. He acknowledged he was chief among sinners. He also had his life threatened many times and finally was killed for his belief and stand.

GOD

Exodus 20:3 , “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

Psalm 14:1, “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...”

Much of the earth worships other gods rather than Jehovah, God of Isarel through His Son Jesus Christ who died on Calvary’s Cross. The three philosophies of Humanism, Socialism and Communism are all atheistic.

Our nation was founded on God. The founding fathers intended for our nation to be founded on Godly principles. Without Him we cannot survive.

In the “Rebirth of America” the following article written by Peter Marshall “The choice before us is plain, Christ or Chaos, conviction or compromise, Discipline or Disintegration. I am rather tired of hearing about our rights and privileges as American Citizens. The time is come, it now is, when we ought to hear about duties and responsibilities of our citizenship. America’s future depends upon her accepting and demonstrating God’s Government.”

Christianity excludes all other religions. God is a jealous God, and there are to be no other gods before Him. We are to worship Him with all of our mind, heart, and soul.

If we say we are His and refuse to follow Him and His Commandments, then we are hypocritical. We should stand up and be counted regardless of the side that we are on. God is a spirit and can be worshipped only spiritually. We must have the spirit of the Lord in us.

The love of God is stressed much by those who say they believe. Much less is said about our duty to Him and the fact He is a God of judgement. It is true God is a God of Love. We must never leave out judgement and discipline.

I Peter 4:17, ”For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”

We are told not to worship any other gods. We are told not to worship any graven images or idols. Satan seeks to exalt himself above the most high. I fear many of us have no other gods, do not worship idols or graven images, and don’t believe in Satan himself. As a matter of fact, our actions show we really don’t

believe in any supernatural power. We place our trust in the hand of man.

Let us return to God.

BIBLES

Seventy- three percent of the world's population do not have a Bible. Eighty-five percent of all Bibles have been printed in English. There have been printed on average of five copies of the Bible or New Testaments for every man , woman, or child in the United States.

The remainder of the earth is a different story. Three out of four people do not have a Bible. Less than 5 percent of the earth has a complete Bible, less than 10% have a New Testament.

Certainly we will be held more accountable for the spreading of the word than most of the world.

What have we done with what we have?

Many question that there are any absolutes.

Many question that the word of God is infallible.

There are so many different versions of the Bible today. Ministers read one version from the stand and the congregation's Bible may be different. Children or adults may memorize a verse and quote it but it may not sound like the version that others learned. Confusion! Confusion! Confusion!

It is felt certain Satan would be happy if every member of a congregation had a different version with each questioning as to what was right and what was wrong. Any time a crack is created it is subject to starting a break.

Isn't it strange we had few problems with versions of the Bible until the educated ones came along and started to dissect the word of truth. Now many question if it is the word of God.

We have so many Bibles in America, but how much is it read?

The Bible brings out so much so simply about the way we should go. We apparently believe we can do whatever we want to.

I recently suggested to a local pastor that there are people over-seas who would walk five miles to get a copy of the word of God. He suggested I try fifty miles. He has been there.

We have such a golden opportunity . The fields are white unto harvest. All we have to do is use wisely what has been given to us.

What do you see tithes and offerings spent for that could be easily turned into Bibles or New Testaments?

God is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is to be exalted above all. The more he is held up, the greater reverence

we show to Him and fear Him.

If we reverence His house, His word, and His commandments, the closer we are to Him and the more spiritual we become. By the same token, if we question His word, do not reverence His house or His day and in effect show less respect for God, we start to slowly separate ourselves from Him no matter how small the thing we are doing to separate us from Him.

When the Bible and the Humanist Manifesto I and II come into conflict , which do we follow? Some examples of these are divorce, homosexuality, evolution, alternative life styles, situation ethics, human values, and one world government. Even many of our churches accommodate compromise between the two to satisfy people and not God.

SPIRITUAL

Webster's New 20th Century Dictionary second edition:

Spiritual : 1. Of the spirit or soul, often in a religious or moral aspect, as distinguished from the body. 2. Of, from, or concerned with the intellect, or what is often thought of as the better or higher part of the mind.

Please note the first definition is the soul and the second is the body.

Many people today do not seem to know what you are talking about when you refer to being spiritual. Often Christians think in terms of the body rather than the soul when speaking of spiritual. We are talking solely in terms of the soul and not the body or the mind.

God is a spirit and His word is spiritual. It can only be truly understood by the spiritual from the soul and not the mind or the intellect. He must be worshipped in spirit and in truth. Example: Believe and thy shall be saved. The carnal mind thinks with the mind one must believe. The spiritual knows it is from the heart (all of your heart). The spiritual desire the ways of God and seek His ways. The carnal seek the ways of the world.

We are to fear God as a child fears a parent. We are to come as a little child, not questioning God, but accepting Him. We must recognize we are capable of nothing except through Him all things are possible. We must be willing to sacrifice the good life in favor of Him.

Rom. 8:9, “---if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you.---”

Rom. 8:14, “For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

Amos 8:11, “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that

I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:"

Isn't it strange that the departure in our nation from God has come through our churches, our schools, government, judicial system, business, and the streets all at the same time with about the same progression? If we check, there is a common thread or common denominator, if you please. The education system feeds all the above with our children going into all walks of life. The longer you are exposed to it normally the deeper one is entrenched in the philosophy.

FAITH

Webster's New 20th Century Dictionary Second Edition: "Faith--belief, trust, to trust, confide in (1.) unquestioning belief (2.) unquestioning belief in God, religion, etc. (4.) anything believed. (5.) complete trust, confidence or reliance as children usually have faith in their parents. (6.) faithfulness, fidelity, loyalty, allegiance to some person or thing (7.) credibility or truth."

Rom. 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

As long as we place reason as the highest intellectual contemplation or authority, then we use reason on the Bible to decide what is right and wrong. We must accept the word of God as an absolute by faith, unquestioning belief in God and His word. We must have complete trust in Him. How can others have faith in us if we do not have faith ourselves? Faithful people are trusted.

The first definition of reason is an explanation or justification of an act, idea, etc. When a person does something in our modern society that might be questionable, you immediately begin with an explanation or justification of the act. Reason and logic are used instead of faith.

Faith is the only thing that should be used to read or study the Bible except righteous reasoning. When man's reason or logic is used, then you immediately start to destroy.

How often we hear the following terms: "I believe" "I feel" "Shouldn't it be this way" "I don't go along with that" instead of Thus saith the Lord. Accept the word of God without question as a child would its parents. If God tells us something that is completely impossible in the human mind, do not question it, but just look for a miracle.

Modern man cannot believe in miracles, for he must reason everything out. If it is not reasonable it is not true.

Heb. 11:1, " Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,

the evidence of things not seen.”

Science proves by experience and experimentation of man. Hands on approach is needed. If you cannot see it, you do not believe it. If we have to see to believe, we have no faith. If we have no faith, we are not one of His.

When we question or doubt, wherein is our faith? We must first accept the Bible as God’s word not to be questioned. If we do this, then it becomes an absolute and cannot and will not be changed. We then must of necessity believe the commandments of God.

The Bible tells us if we love Him we will keep His commandments. How can we say we have faith if we do not believe the Bible is the word of God? Does our lack of faith quench the spirit of God?

God is a spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and truth (the Bible) if we are to please Him. Are we more concerned about pleasing God or ourselves?

Do we understand what faith is?

SALVATION

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Rom. 3:10, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:”

Rom. 3:23, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Rom. 5:8, “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Rom.10:10-13, “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Rom.14:12, “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

Salvation: The acceptance of Jesus Christ as your personal saviour in the free pardon of your sins. This is a personal relationship between the individual and Christ. He died for our sins on Calvary’s cross. We must accept and repent (turn away from our former life).

We live in a day when children are taught that they and they

alone decide what is right for them. There are no absolutes. Their self-esteem is to be held high. Individualism has become a central part of our society. Each person can achieve anything if they will set their mind and their heart (soul) to the task.

Let us back up and take a close look at salvation once again. In order to be a saved born-again believer, we need a pardon of our sins. First, we must recognize that we have sinned or that we are a sinner. Without this, what hope have we? Next, to ask for forgiveness we must humble ourselves. To humble oneself in the face of high esteem and self-worth (pride) is difficult. I would not say it is impossible, but difficult.

Next if there are no absolutes or you can choose what you feel is best for you, how can you submit yourself by faith without question. Most of our youth have been taught to criticize and question everything.

I could go on and on, but I have seen youth walk the aisle coming for salvation more than once thinking each time they were saved. Confused!

The philosophy that is taught today does not make salvation impossible, but it makes it difficult for many to even understand what the Bible is saying, much less to humble and submit themselves without question to the hand of the living God.

Are we quenching the spirit of God with our vain philosophies?

REASON-----QUESTION-----CRITICIZE-----

How can you be convicted by the SPIRIT OF GOD when there is NO FEAR OF GOD?

Our young people must see the adults showing a fear of God.

Is your Bible marked with Salvation scriptures so you could show a person how to be saved? We should have it in our hearts.

Have you read I John so you will know wherein you stand? The word know appears 27 times and known 5 times. Both total 32 times. If you name the name of the Lord you should read it.

THE LORD'S DAY

Mans thinking is that intellectual contemplation gives us the right to decide what we want to do on the Lord's Day and if it is right.

Many people dispute about the Sabbath and The Lord's Day with most keeping neither.

In Jeremiah 17: 19-27 we are told to bear no burden, neither do ye any work and to hallow the day.

Israel was told that kings and princes of David would sit upon the throne and the city would stand forever if they would hearken unto him. They were to keep the Sabbath and to keep it Holy.

They were also told what would happen if they did not hearken unto Him.

I can remember as a child that one service station would open on Sunday so a traveler could get gas and one drug store for emergency medical needs. Now anything goes. Our industries run wide open, trucks travel the roads transporting goods and generally speaking business is as usual in most circles.

Many pastors go out to a restaurant for a relaxing meal after services on Sunday. I have known of deacons taking ministers out to buy them lunch on The Lord's Day. This teaches our young to buy and sell on the Lord's Day. Church groups sometimes even take the youth out and buy ice cream after services on Sunday evening.

Our examples to our youth and others should be what we are willing to give up for the Lord.

Most often the debate about the Lord's Day comes from a person desiring to break it.

Few there be that will hallow The Lord, His Day, His Name and stand and resist the evil that has taken our land.

God took His people out of their land to let the land rest for the length of time that His Day had been broken by the people.

How long would we have to be taken out for the land to rest for our broken Lord's Days.

An older preacher once said that when he was young a man plowed his fields on Sunday. He was not a member of the church. The local congregation had no control over the man. One man at a time went by to visit him and told him they hated having such things as working on Sunday put before their children. After the man had been visited by most of the men of the community, he quit plowing on Sunday.

The above was here in Arkansas, within the life span of a local minister who is still preaching.

My, how we have changed.

The line of excuses that we offer for desecration of the Lord's Day are as long as my arm.

Rom. 8:14 " For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

I find no place in the New Testament where the Christians are instructed to build a building to worship God. I find where many met in homes, etc. Paul often met with the Jews in the synagogues. If a building is built and set aside and dedicated to the worship of God, then let it be for that purpose and not for recreation and festivity. Some buildings are built for a million dollars or more. How many New Testaments or Bibles would that send to foreign fields that are desperately in need of them.

Let His house be set aside for a house of prayer. Matt. 21:13, "And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." Is.: 56:7, "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."

Let His house be a spiritual place dedicated solely for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

Let there be no garage sales, ball games, auctions, car washes, selling turkeys, or become a restaurant. For the church to go into business for a profit is certainly out of the question. Why would the house of the Lord, a house of prayer, a spiritual house, worshipping God who is a spirit and concerned with spiritual matters- tell me why He would have need of a kitchen? If you are hungry go home to eat. I Cor. 11:34" And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come."

It is recognized that the Lord's supper is mentioned in the previous verse. See also verse 22 of chapter 11 of I Corinthians. It is mentioned twice in one chapter. How can anyone dispute trying to lift up or show more reverence to God, His house, or His name? There is certainly nothing wrong with eating or fellowship together, but why does it have to be in a place dedicated to Almighty God?

What is wrong with a group within a church doing things to make money and then bring the money to the house of the Lord on the first day of the week as the Lord has prospered them. But on the other hand, if we do all these things at or in the church (car washes-garage sales-etc. etc.) then we belittle the Lord, His name, and His house, and His cause. How can we give our junk to the Lord and give the very best that we own to Him?

A lady, now deceased, once said it appeared in her church some thought they could eat their way to heaven.

Remember John Dewey's Human Interest philosophy. Once a man who moved to town from out of area was seeking a church home. He and his family went around town seeking a church. He said he was seeing what they had to offer for him

and his family.

I always thought we went to worship God in spirit and truth and to learn about God and His word. Let His house be respected and show reverence when there. Teach our young not to act up. Let them know it is a house of prayer.

Many quickly say the building is not to be worshipped. True enough, but it appears to me it is an awesome thing to build and dedicate anything unto the living God and then turn around and misuse what now is owned by God or downright desecrate it.

I remember as a child being instructed by my mother and told to keep quiet in church and listen, but I didn't. I was whispered to and told she would see me when I got home. Nothing was said to me until my mother's hand reached for the screen door when we got home. I thought it was all over and she had forgotten. I still remember that spanking I got, even though I was a child and am now up in years. I thank God for a godly mother that loved me and properly instructed me concerning the house of the Lord. My mother under today's psychological philosophy of humanism would probably be considered a child abuser for giving me proper biblical and godly instruction. Our educated ones have intellectually contemplated or reasoned differently than God and try to force us to go in the ungodly direction. Under today's standards I was the victim, and I thank God for being one.

Now it hurts me to the bone when I see people in the sanctuary of God during special events eating and drinking coffee even in the very sanctuary of God. Years ago I came up late for services and saw people during a prayer looking around with eyes wide open. Perhaps they were not taught and didn't know to respect the Lord. I have even seen children getting their regular school homework during regular services. Where is the respect and reverence to the living God? What have we ourselves done to diminish the respect, reverence and fear of God? Have we taught our children accordingly?

Ivan Petrovich Pavlov (1849-1936), a Russian physiologist researched the flow of digestive juices as a conditioned reflex. He rang a bell and then fed dogs. Eventually he could ring the bell and regardless of whether he fed the dogs or not the digestive juices would start to flow.

Hopefully we have not reached the point where we have been conditioned to the extent that when we hear the church bell ring our digestive juices start to flow because we have eaten there so much we feel that is what it is all about.

Help us to return to our first love, remembering our salvation through faith in the Lord, thinking of the Lord's house as a house of prayer. May we think of nothing in connection with His worship other than Him, His Son, His

Spirit and His Word.

Rom. 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Matt. 6: 1-4, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

But when thou doest alms, let not thou left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

That thine alms may be in secret: and thou Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly."

Matt. 5: 23-24, "Therefore if thou bring thou gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

II Cor: 9:7, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

Psalms 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

Mal.3:8-9, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

Mal. 3:10, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

In Malachi 1:10 we are told that the Lord would not accept an offering at their hands. Further in Mal. 1:14 "But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen."

I fear in many cases today even if we give our tithes and offerings unto the Lord at His storehouse we may wonder what purpose it will be used. If it was spiritually given for the

advancement of His kingdom will it be spent for hot dogs? Three fifths of the earth do not even have a copy of the Bible or New Testament yet we as stewards of the Lord put greater precedence on trips, recreational centers, eats, and activities, activities, activities, etc. than we do on distribution of God's word.

Human interest has greater priority in many cases than the commandments of God.

If the people with their names on a church roll gave a tithe and not an offering unto the Lord the offerings of the Lord would over flow and the needy could be taken care of out of it rather than by the government.

An out of town doctor asked if it was as well helping the needy as giving to his church. He said all they will use it for is to build another building.

Mark 9:41 "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."

Many do not give their tithes to any church. I personally would hate to be in a big bass boat that I had purchased with my tithes and offerings on a lake on Sunday morning and a storm come up. What about a sports car which was purchased with the masters tithes and offerings on the way to a ball game?

Isn't it a shame to even be in a position to feel the need to ask what a local body of baptized believers would do with God's tithes and offerings if they got their hands on them?

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God when we transgress openly and frequently against God.

As I understand the word, we are to be cheerful givers, not of necessity, but for the love of God. We are to do this in secret and to give of the best that we have, and he will reward us openly.

CHARITY

Sit down with a pencil and paper at six o'clock P. M. in front of a television and write down the name of each organization mentioned until midnight that is taking care of the affairs of man separate and apart from God. Write in a separate location any organization that gives God the credit for what is being accomplished.

Many Christians may question any one of these organization being mentioned and tell what great good they are doing.

How can God be the center of our lives when we work so hard and do so much and give him credit for little or nothing?

The number of charitable organizations requesting money through the mail is almost endless. Few there be that give God and not man the credit for the accomplishments. Perhaps many are serving a purpose and may ease the suffering of mankind, but how much greater it would be if done in the name of the Lord with Him getting the credit rather than a person or organization.

We must always remember that the vain philosophy that is taking our land is coming in the name of good. Also remember that many people that do good it is obtained through intellectual contemplation (man's reasoning) and not the love of God. We feel we must establish our own values.

An Englishman wrote a book which I learned from it years ago that indicated that much of our evil is coming from good. If we want something to be accepted by our people then call it good and give a rational reason showing the good it will do for mankind.

Man taking care of the affairs of man separate and apart from God.

Many Christians have given many dollars to causes that sound good but have never aided the cause of Christ. We are to be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. We are to be good stewards.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of our churches could be entrusted with tithes and offerings to spend on the advancement of the kingdom of the Lord and for spiritual things only? The answer would be simple for the average Christian to take his/her tithes and offerings to the store house and there would be plenty for all in need, but not for all those with the wrong reason.

Matt. 6:33, " But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

SIN

Have we reached the point that we really don't know what sin is? Can sin be defined?

We live in a day and age where it is felt each person is able to choose his own values. Reason is the greatest human contemplation. If one is able to reason out what is right and what is wrong, then transgression of necessity must be against one of the selected values that the particular individual has chosen. What may be considered sinful to you may not be sinful to me is the idea.

What is considered sin to one is not a sin at all to another. If there is no sin, then there is no transgression or guilt.

The Bible is very clear concerning sin. God's law will stand and cannot be changed. If we do not comply with God's law, we have transgressed and transgression is sin. Omission as well as commission is sin.

The Bible tells us that that which is not of faith is sin.

The knowledge of the law teaches us what is sin.

There is a famine in the land for the word of God.

Without absolutes there is confusion and chaos.

So many people today sin daily and do not have a clue that they have transgressed against anything. They often look at it as an alternative or choice that they have a right to make.

Jer. 6:15-17, "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the Lord.

Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken."

Doesn't this sound familiar? How long has it been since you have seen someone blush? How often do you see someone ashamed? On the other hand, how often do you see a prideful or haughty look?

Pro. 16:18, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

We must know the word of God in order to know His laws and His commandments. If we know the laws and commandments, we realize or know when we transgress. Only when we know we have transgressed can we repent and turn away. If we do not know we have transgressed or do not think we have transgressed then we cannot turn away from our sins.

Does it bother you to buy or sell on the Lord's Day? Does it bother you not to return thanks at meals? When you don't go to worship God each week, do you feel guilty? Do you decide what is right and wrong for you, or does God decide?

We are born in sin. We are all sinners. Our only hope is through Christ Jesus. Then we must seek and desire His teachings.

Rom:3:10, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one:"

Rom. 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

JUDGMENT

The front row Christian often is the first to say I will not judge. The Bible is clear on judgment. II Cor. 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."

Remember the commandments of God. If God commands us not to steal and we see a person clearly steal, then we say the man is a thief. Have we judged, or is it God's judgment that has condemned the person?

Ken Stegall in his articles written and published in the El Dorado News-Times stated, "Those who accuse others of being judgmental are themselves the first judge - and the harshest." This is well said.

When we departed from the laws of God, we had to set up our own laws. Often when there is conflict between man's law and the laws of God, we duck the issue by saying

I will not judge. When discipline in the local church comes up, we often say I will not judge.

I Cor. 6:1-4, "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?"

Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church?"

It is quite simply either we will comply with the laws of God or the laws of man. When we take it upon ourselves to decide and it is not by God's commandments, we have truly become a judge and we are judging.

It is a dreadful thing to judge another individual. All judgment is placed in the hands of Christ, and each of us will come before Him. We are not to judge of ourselves. If however God has commanded it, then it will stand throughout eternity.

Please do not use the term judge as a scapegoat to keep from standing on our own responsibilities of keeping the Word of God. If God has said it, then it is an absolute and cannot or will not be changed.

So often the term "judging" is used when a person does not want to get involved or take a stand for what the Bible says is true. Christ and most of His disciples were killed for the stand they took. How much opposition do we receive for the stand we take?