

# The Brown Street Beacon

*"...Shine out among them like beacon lights,*

*holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil 2:15-16)*



Volume 2

May 4, 2014

Number. 14

## Where Will the Social Gospel Stop?

The church is now and has always been a spiritual body. Paul once said that the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit." This truth is totally ignored in the denominational churches of today. Instead of making the spiritual work of the church as revealed on the pages of inspiration (*evangelism, edification and benevolence, Ephesians 4:12*) the primary focus, most churches today place those things in the back seat

### New Zion Baptist Church

Embracing and Empowering More In Christ

Sunday, September 11, 2005

### Family Day Celebration

#### Family Fun Night

(Everyone bring a lawn chair)

Friday, September 9, 2005

Games! Dancing! Movies!

Fun For All Ages!!!!!!

5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Activities by age group

7:30 p.m.-8:15 p.m. Dancing by age group

8:15 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Family Movie

#### Worship Service

Sunday, September 11, 2005

##### Special Choir:

8:30 a.m. Temple Jubilee & Family Members

(Rehearsal: Sat., Sept. 10th, 12 noon)

11:30 a.m.amani Voices & Family Members

(Rehearsal: Sat., Sept. 10th, 1:30 p.m.)

**Families dress to identify:**  
Wear family T-shirts, wear same color outfits, name badges, same color ribbons, etc.

**Bulletin Board for families to sign their name if they give an offering in pink envelopes.**  
(Family name only/not amount)

and make *recreation, entertainment and social issues* the major concern. Fun and frolic has replaced the gospel in many denominations. Where will it all stop? I'm not sure about the answer to that, but I do know that turning the gospel into something social and reducing the church into nothing but a social club is without divine authority and therefore sinful (Colossians 3:17; 2 John 9-11). Denominational churches used to simply serve donuts and coffee on the grounds before, after or in between services (*something bad enough since there is no Bible authority for it*), but now they use their facilities for dinners, dancing and movies. Again I ask where does it all stop? The reason I can't answer that question is because, in truth, there is no telling. When the Bible is discarded and people begin to seek after their own heart and eyes (Numbers 15:39), rather than making sure that there is book, chapter and verse for whatever is practiced, there is no stopping point.

Sadly, there are even local churches of Christ who have been led into believing that the work of the church is social. They are doing all they can to imitate denominational churches, in order to draw the large crowds that many denominational churches do. In doing so, they have forgotten the principles of Bible authority that sets faithful churches of Christ apart from denominationalism. Worse, they cease to glorify God by their works. Instead they glorify man, the only one that can be glorified when a church acts according to its own will instead of the will of God. This social digression of many churches can be seen by this typical event held by a liberal minded church in Louisville, KY. Consider the flyer below as proof.

*The African Americans for Morality and Justice,  
The Kentucky Pro-Family Coalition and  
The American Family Association of Kentucky  
Cordially invites you to*

**West Louisville  
Pro Family Rally  
& Free\* Banquet  
The World's Best Chicken Dinner  
Please Join Us**

**Monday – September 19<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 PM**

**Midwest Church of Christ**

**2115 Garland Ave Louisville, KY 40211**

one man one woman



**COME and SEE**

*How to help us put Prayer and the  
Ten Commandments back in our schools  
With **FREE** bumper stickers.*



**ISSUES WE'LL DISCUSS:**

- Crimes against Children
- What can we do to STOP the violence in our city?
- Is it right for a woman not to know that her husband has AIDS?
- Marriage between one man and one woman
- See the pro homosexual video that is being shown in our schools.
- Find out what we can do to protect our children and grandchildren and prevent a statewide Gay Rights Law.
- Should Supreme Court nominees be required to support abortion before being confirmed?
- Should local schools be allowed to post the Ten Commandments along with other historical founding documents?

You might be able to find the world's greatest chicken dinner at the Midwest Church of Christ, but what you won't find is authority for a local church using its building as a club house to host secular events. Have we forgotten that the only authority for a building in the first place is generic. God said that the church must assemble (Hebrews 10:24-25). Thus, a church must have a place to assemble. The church building is like the tools that Noah used in building the ark. God specified "gopher" wood in the building of the ark, but the tools used He left up to Noah's discretion. Noah had specific authority for the *wood* used in building the ark and generic authority for the *tools* used in following God's command to build an ark. We have specific authority to *assemble* and generic authority for the *place* that allows us to carry out God's command. Now since the generic authority for the building is inseparable from the command to assemble, to use the building for other functions of a secular, recreational or social nature is unauthorized.

Furthermore, one cannot find in the Bible the church ever engaging in social reform. The reason for this is not because social matters are not important. The truth is social matters are very important. Stopping abortion is important. Fighting against the acceptance of homosexuality is very important. Slowing down crime and violence in our neighborhoods is very important. However that

is a job for individual Christians to engage in, not the church. Homosexuality was just as prevalent, probably more so, in the Roman society of the first century than it is now, but Paul never encouraged a local church to hold a pro family rally? Why not! Was it because Paul didn't think family was important? Of course not! It was simply not the work of the local church and today it is still not the work of the church. The church is a spiritual body with a spiritual work to do. Local churches of Christ help society by changing hearts and winning souls one at a time through the preaching of the gospel. That is all they did in the first century church and if it was good enough for Paul, Peter, James and John, and the rest of the early Christians, it should be good enough for us. Whether schools are allowed to post the Ten Commandments or not is a social issue, not a church matter. Judicial tyranny is a social issue, not a church matter. Gay right laws are social issues, not a church matter. Now individual Christians have the right to get involved in these kind of issues if they choose to, but for the church to do so is unscriptural, unauthorized and a failure to abide in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11). It is clear from the flyer on the opposite page that some brethren are not just drifting from the New Testament pattern, they have hopped on a speed boat and are racing towards secular denominationalism.

*Don*