

The Brown Street Beacon

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

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



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Did You Know...

It is amazing how many false doctrines are practiced today by people who think that their practices line up with what the Word of God teaches. Most of the false doctrines of today, along with the practices to which they lead, came after the New Testament was completed and therefore can be no part of the apostles' doctrine. This is important because we are commanded to abide in the doctrine of Christ, and if we fail to do so, the Bible says we have not God (2 John 9). If any of the doctrines that the church you attend fall into that category, you should sincerely think about finding a church that only preaches and practices that which originated with the apostles of Christ. Let's look at some doctrinal practices that arrived on the scene too late.

Do you know that the first person sprinkled for baptism was in 251 A.D.? Thus, sprinkling for baptism is not a scriptural practice. In Acts 2 we read of the church being established on the day of Pentecost. After hearing the first gospel sermon preached by Peter, the Jews, who were listening, were pricked in their hearts and ask him what they had to do (Acts 2:36-37). In verse 38 of that text, Peter told them that they must repent and be baptized. Three thousand precious souls complied and were added to the church (Acts 2:47). As we investigate this baptism that was commanded by the Spirit in Acts 2, we find that it consisted of being buried in water. In Acts 8, for example, when the Ethiopian eunuch heard the gospel of Christ, he asked the preacher, Philip, "...See, here is water; what does hinder me to be baptized?" (Acts 8:36). After confessing Christ, we find Philip baptizing this man, not by sprinkling a little water on his head, but by going down into the water and immersing him (Acts 8:39). This was always the case when people were baptized in the first century church. There was always a going down into the water. This is why baptism is called a burial (Romans 6:3; Colossians 2:12). Is this what your church preaches and practices? If not, you better find a new church.

Do you know that the first instrument of music used in worship was in 670 A.D.? That means that Paul never attempted to praise God while using a musical instrument. Peter never did so either. In fact, it is a foregone conclusion that the first century church purposely avoided the use of musical instruments while singing praises to God. Historians agree on this fact.

"Both the Jews in their temple service, and the Greeks in their idol worship, were accustomed to sing with the accompaniment of instrumental music. The converts to Christianity accordingly must have been familiar with this mode of singing...But it is generally admitted, that the primitive Christians employed no instrumental music in their worship" (Lyman Coleman, The Apostolic and Primitive Church, pp. 368-369).

"There can be no doubt that originally the music of the divine service was everywhere entirely

of a vocal nature” (Emil Nauman, The History of Music, Vol. 1, P. 177).

“Only singing, however, and no playing of instruments, was permitted in the early church” (Hugo Leichtentritt, Music, History and Ideas, p. 34).

Furthermore, do you know that while faithful churches of Christ are viewed as being strange for not using musical instruments today, it wasn't that long ago that the Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran and Baptist churches all opposed the use of musical instruments in worship? Why? For the same reason that I do—there is no Bible authority for their use. In the early church, when praising God from the heart was enough, the human vocal cords were the only instrument needed. But today, when entertainment and putting on a show is the most important thing, instruments of musical are necessary. What does all this mean? It means that instruments of music are an addition to the word of God, added long after the New Testament was complete and the last apostle died, and thus, not a part of the doctrine of Christ. This stands true no matter how popular they are today and no matter how many churches use them. Are you willing to risk your soul by not abiding in the doctrine of Christ just to do something that the original church never did in the first place? Think seriously about it.

Do you know that the doctrine that one could not fall from grace was first advocated in 400 A.D.? It ultimately became the final tenet of the false teaching of Calvinism, but the apostles never taught it and the church of the New Testament never embraced it. The perseverance of the saints heresy was not introduced until 300 years after the New Testament was complete. Still we find that most mainstream denominations today hold to Calvinism and vigorously preach that once a person is saved, he is always saved. Is this what your church teaches? Do you know that not only was it never taught in the first century, but that it is in direct conflict with the Word of God? Paul told first century Christians that if they were attempting to be justified by works of the law, they had *fallen from grace* (Galatians 5:4). If the religion you are a part of embraces Calvinism, you are a part of a group not abiding in the doctrine of Christ. Leave that church and find a church that is satisfied with just the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42).

Remember, everything a church preaches and practices must line up with the Word of God. Don't be a part of a group that teaches or practices something that can't be sustained by the Bible. If it was taught in the New Testament era by the apostles of Christ, you should be able to put your finger on the passage that proves it to be so. If not, challenge the leaders of your church to prove by the Word that what is being taught and practiced at your church is scripturally. If they can't do this, yet they refuse to change, your obligation is to make a change yourself.

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