

The Church Of Christ In The 21st Century

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The church of the Bible is an everlasting kingdom that never shall be destroyed nor be moved nor shaken (Dan. 2:44; Heb. 12:27-28). It was purposed in the infinite mind of God from eternity (Eph. 3:10-11). It was purchased by the precious blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary (Acts 20:28). It was preached unto the Gentiles and believed on in the world (I Tim. 3:16). When Paul wanted to send greetings to Christians in Rome from Christians throughout the wide world whom he had met he wrote, "The churches of Christ salute you" (Rom. 16:16a). Then as now, there was not a single soul saved by the blood of Christ that stood outside the church of Christ for the Lord himself has and does add all the saved to the church (Acts 2:47). Therefore, the church of Christ in the 21st century will be the church of Christ as established by the Lord himself in the 1st century.

If Christians were being bewitched and moved away from the truth into perverted so-called gospels in the first century, it should not be a cause of wonderment when such may happen in the twenty-first century (cf. Gal. 1:6-9; 3:1). Today we have those in churches of Christ who are making concerted efforts to unite with the Christian Church. One medium of communication utilized widely by those in sympathy with this move is *The Christian Chronicle* published by Oklahoma Christian University who has set up an independent board attempting to shield the school from the paper due to its radical departure from the teaching of the Bible and propagation of seemingly every denominational dogma of current popularity. Its circulation is approximately 100,000 per month. (For more information, locally Harold Redd, minister of the Mid-Town Church of Christ serves on the board of trustees and is listed in advancement of the views expressed in the paper in each and every edition of it). Fewer

and fewer readers are accepting the disclaimer in each edition of the paper which says, "*The Christian Chronicle*©" is not a teaching or doctrinal publication, but a newspaper with news and opinion content in sections clearly labeled." The reason is readers see Bible teaching on fundamental matters listed under size 72 point type letters saying, "OPINION," and they also see across the page from the "disclaimer" in the June 2006 edition, for example, a letter of appreciation from Terry Rush for *The Christian Chronicle's* coverage of the Tulsa International Soul Winning Workshop where wholesale capitulation with the Christian Church took place out there.

The Christian Chronicle has a front page picture of Jeff Walling, minister of the Providence Road Church of Christ, Charlotte, North Carolina, exchanging Bibles with Dale Stone, minister of the Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, during the final evening session of the North American Christian Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in a demonstration of union. The night was highlighted by members of churches of Christ and Christian Churches worshipping together with the instrument. The corrupted *Chronicle* reads, "Keith Lancaster from the group Acappella led a non-instrumental rendition of 'Awesome God,' followed by both praise teams singing a modern-day 'Rock of Ages,' accompanied by a piano, drums, electric guitars, a trombone, a trumpet and tambourines."

Noteworthy to churches of Christ in the 21st century is the fact that apostate so-called Christian colleges, Abilene Christian University and Rochester College, are taking the lead in the nosedive into error. Again the paper said, "Among a cappella church members who participated in the Bible exchange were ministers Marvin Phillips and Jerry Taylor as

well as Abilene Christian University President Royce Money and Rochester College President Mike Westerfield.”

In churches of Christ today there remains a mighty host who are more interested in seeing men present the content of the Bible than a pretext of camaraderie by switching Bibles with each other. The Christian Churches have miserably failed to produce a single passage from the New Testament that supports their instrumental music in worship. Everyone must be reminded that in the day of judgment the Lord is not going to switch Bibles with those in error, but he is going “to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him” (Jude 15). Our sincere desire is to warn men of their need to repent prior to reaching that eventuality even as the faithful have done through the centuries (Acts 2:38; 17:30-31; II Pet. 3:9; *et al.*).

Lipscomb University followed suite with ACU and RC in their summer lectureship by having Jeff Walling along with Joe Beam, Lynn Anderson, Randy Harris, John York, co-preacher with Rubel Shelly, Don McLaughlin, Harold Hazelip, and Memphis preachers Allen Black and Chris Altrock. Alan Highers was invited by 21st Century Christian publications to speak on the Lipscomb campus during the lectureship on the subject “The 1906 Division—Principles For Today.” Unfortunately none of the aforementioned were in attendance, and we would very much like for them and those of like-mind to hear what Alan had to say on that occasion. Due to the limitations of time Alan was not able to get all he prepared into the presentation, but we will print it entirely in subsequent editions of this paper. Our hope is that those who love the Lord and his church will get this information especially to those in churches of Christ who have been and are being led astray by these prominent institutions and individuals.

In closing, the church has been and always will be the instrument of God’s

glorification as Paul said, “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen” (Eph. 3:21).