

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CALLING BIBLE THINGS BY BIBLE NAMES AND DOING BIBLE THINGS IN BIBLE WAYS?

One of the more prevalent movements in the Lord's church that has greatly increased in momentum over the past several years, involves that of many congregations implementing a myriad of "feel-good programs" that have absolutely nothing to do with the work of the church. Not only that, it is becoming more and more popular for elderships to introduce a variety of titles and positions within the church and then labeling them as 'ministers' over whatever the activity or program they have decided to implement. Having looked at many of the websites of churches of Christ in the Middle TN and the greater Nashville area, it is truly amazing as to the quantity of titles and positions that some congregations have come up with. The term 'minister' in its most simplistic form carries with it the meaning of servant. In that sense, we are all ministers in the Lord's church. It can also be said that we are all evangelists — heralds of truth. However, the first century church of which we read about in the New Testament never handed out 'minister' titles to serve specific groups based on their social needs nor specific age groups within the body of Christ.

One of the more prominent examples of this is that many congregations of the Lord's church today feel a pressing need to come up with "programs" that primarily focus on either the social needs or entertainment aspects (or both) of their members. For instance, many congregations feel their young people must have something 'extra' in order to keep them interested, involved, and even faithful. Many elderships have whole-heartedly bought into what the denominational world has been trying to do for years in an all-out effort of catering to, entertaining, and oftentimes to the point of even babysitting the young people. Whatever happened to the power of God's word (cf. [Rom. 1:16](#))?

As a teenager, the congregation I attended numbered over 300 members. It was a sound and faithful congregation. They had absolutely none of these 'special' programs like we find so often in congregations today that attempt to occupy the youth or cater to any select group of people for that matter. Yes, the youth of the congregation did some good, clean, fun activities together (as they should), but it had absolutely nothing to do with a select "program," or a focus on needing to be entertained all the time. There was no need for a so-called 'youth minister' nor was it ever mentioned as a position of need.

It is now becoming more common (especially in larger congregations) to implement programs that appeal not only to the youth, but also to the ‘social needs’ of all the members. This oftentimes results in how some view the gathering of the saints for worship as little more than a social gathering; and as a result, they oftentimes receive nothing more than a social gospel.

Here is a partial list of titles and/or positions found on various websites of congregations that identify themselves as churches of Christ. Many of these titles go well beyond the ‘youth minister’ title mentioned previously; and, several of the titles below (and the programs they oversee) are unscriptural to begin with. This is just a sampling and likely there are many more not named here that exists in congregations locally and abroad: Youth minister, Education minister, Community outreach minister, Children’s minister, Young Adults minister, Stewardship minister, Children’s program minister, Marriage minister, Encouragement minister, Children’s worship minister, Life Groups minister, High School minister, Middle School minister, Worship minister, Family Life minister, Seniors minister, College minister, Church Life minister, Finance minister, Preschool minister, Facilities minister, Women’s minister, Executive minister, Discipleship minister, Singles minister, Singles again minister, Parking Lot minister.

Let me ask you, where did all these titles come from? Can any of these be found in God’s word? Whatever happened to calling Bible things by Bible names and doing Bible things in Bible ways? Many proclaim to do such, but they are oftentimes only deceiving themselves.

One congregation I came across has over 30 people on their staff and payroll consisting of ministers, directors, counselors, and even therapists. And by the way, many of these so-called ministers are women that have taken on a leadership role. I recently viewed one congregation’s website which states that their counseling ministers (plural) offer a wide range of services i.e. individual psychotherapy, premarital and marital counseling, family therapy, and even psychological testing.

What is happening in the church today? This is plainly the subtlety and work of Satan. These deceptive devices have been at work in many congregations for some time now. Sadly, there are some in the church today who seemingly choose to remain ignorant of God’s word.

Alan Gauger – Seek The Old Paths, Nov. 2020 (Part 2 next week)

Braggs church of Christ Bulletin
December 20, 2020

Sick & Shut-in

Bennett, Norma
Brashear, Logan
Bunch, Margaret
Cunningham, Jerry
Evans, Carla
Evans, Steve
Hall, Donna
Horn, Bobby
Moore, Jean
Mouse, Tyler
Nunez, Bob
Prichard, Barbara
Prichard, Bobby
Sturgeon, Wayne
Sullins, Ray

Evangelism

Cliff Lyons, Ilya Muzychenko and Markov Roman, Russia
Ricky Gootam, India
House to House/Heart to Heart
Website - Braggschurhofchrist.com
Facebook.com@braggscc
In Search of The Lord's Way- Tulsa, OK, on
KQCW TV 19 - Sun 7:30 am

Attendance

[Average attendance for 2019 - 43]
November Average - 30
Attendance last Sunday - 32

Scripture Reading – Prov. 1:7-9

News & Notes

The following are suffering from Covid: Dawn West and Wayne Casey

We offer our sympathy to the family of Marita England who recently passed away.