

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

(Continued from last week)

There are those who do not care about scriptural authority any longer. And there are still others who simply have fallen into Satan's trap of outright apathy. Many of these congregations have completely gone over the edge of the cliff and left the faith. Others are well on their way and the edge of the cliff is in sight and drawing ever nearer.

Tragically, many members including elders, deacons, and preachers are convinced of the idea that many of these programs and activities equate to doing the work of the church. From what we can gather from Scripture, the primary work of the Lord's church simply involves that of teaching the Gospel to the lost, strengthening those who are of the saved, recovering those who were once faithful but who have fallen away and helping the needy and destitute.

There are certainly times in which an eldership, out of expediency, may highlight specific needs. This could certainly involve assigning specific tasks to certain members. One example would be volunteers visiting the shut-ins or those hospitalized. This is certainly a wonderful work and a scriptural one ([James 1:27](#); [Matt. 25:35-36](#)). However, implementing such a program or being involved in such an activity would certainly not justify the creation of a so-called 'visitation minister.' Another example would be that of benevolence which is commonly assigned to one or more of the deacons under the oversight of the elders. This task could also be fulfilled by other members ([Matt. 5:42](#); [25:35-36](#)). However, just because someone is put in charge of benevolence would not constitute putting in place a so-called 'benevolence minister' to carry out this work. And we could go on and on with these types of examples where congregations have come up with one title after another. These two examples just mentioned are indeed worthy works, but there are many others that have absolutely nothing to do with the work of the church. Instead of adhering to Scripture and what may be expedient, there is oftentimes a total disregard for what is authorized in Scripture. In some places, it seems just about anything goes; and, with no limits.

I believe that one primary reason for what is happening in so many congregations of the church today is the fact that many elders have lost sight of what their role as shepherds of the flock entails —Lead, Feed, and Watch!

Many elders seem to be more concerned with membership numbers and contribution totals than they are spiritual matters. In many (mostly larger) congregations there is oftentimes a ‘liberal’ element that exists, and some elderships have been heavily influenced by such members. The question really comes down to this, are they seeking to please God or are they seeking to please men (cf. [Gal. 1:10](#))?

Sadly, many in the Lord’s church today do not think things such as Bible authority are all that important anymore. Some are seemingly no longer interested in a “*thus saith the Lord.*” Many will not heed to the teaching given in Scripture as to the warnings of ‘adding to’ and ‘deleting from’ God’s word ([Deut. 4:2](#); [Prov. 30:5-6](#); [Rev. 22:18-19](#)). But those of us who preach and teach God’s word, who love the Lord and love his word, will gladly heed and uphold the truth that makes men free ([John 8:31-32](#)).

I hope and pray that an article such as this will help some become aware of some of the dangerous devices that are creeping into the Lord’s church today. May we all strive to uphold God’s word and understand the importance of calling Bible things by Bible names and doing Bible things in Bible ways. - *Alan Gauger – Seek The Old Paths, Nov. 2020*

QUESTION: Does God know when a baby is in the womb?

ANSWER: Yes! David wrote in Psalms 139:13-15, “For thou hast possessed my reins (created my inward parts): thou hast covered (protected) me in my mother’s womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth greatly. My substance (body) was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously fashioned in the lowest parts of the earth (in a place away from man’s observation). God told Jeremiah (1:5), “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” If God knew David and Jeremiah in the womb, it is certain that He knows all who are in the womb today! (David Amos for Truth for the World)

**Braggs church of Christ Bulletin
December 27, 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

**The following are suffering
from Covid:**

Dawn West,
Wayne Casey
Clint Mackey

Evangelism

Cliff Lyons, Ilya Muzychenko and Markov Roman, Russia
Ricky Gootam, India
House to House/Heart to Heart
Website - Braggschurchofchrist.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 - 37

Scripture Reading – Prov. 1:10-12

News & Notes

Gospel Meeting with Allen Webster - July 25-27, 2021

January 2021 calendars are on the table in the back of the building – also pocket calendars for 2021

Also remember Joe Cash who is ill and in the hospital.