

The Tanner St Church of Christ meets each Lord's Day beginning with Bible classes at **9:30 AM**. We continue with our worship at **10:20 AM** and again at **5:00 PM**. We also meet each Wednesday evening at **7:00 PM** for Bible study and worship. Our meeting place is located about ¾ of a mile from I30 at 1512 Tanner St in Malvern, AR.

If you have questions about what we believe and teach, please visit our website, tannerst.com to listen to sermons or read past articles from our bulletin. Or you can contact us and we will be glad to find a convenient time to study with you.

Phone: (501) 332-8806 Email: preacher@tannerst.com

Consider this Verse: **2Peter 3:10**

Visit storeinmyheart.com for a few words regarding these verses.

Needed News

Bill Venable has an appointment with doctors in Little Rock January 12 regarding treatment for his kidney stones. **Joyce** is suffering with Bronchial Pneumonia.

Paula Laubach is dealing with the cold virus this week.

The Simpson Family is in Star City this weekend.

Continue to pray for good health for those on our "extended family" list **Carolynn Richmond**, **Nettie Jackson** and other friends and family. **Ronda Gray** hopes to be able to start chemo treatments this week. Calls and cards mean a great deal, especially to those who are unable to get out much. Prayer makes a difference.

Dan's Parents (Jerry & Dottie) had some motorhome trouble but were able to make it home safely by Saturday evening. They will have to travel back to Idaho to get the motorhome once the repairs are complete.

Seeking His Righteousness

"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." Matthew 6:33

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Extremes On Authority

Connie W. Adams

It is an easy matter for us to run to extremes on any subject. While the subject of authority is basic to all religious faith and practices, there are some extremes which must be avoided.

No Authority Needed: Some have decided that the wisdom of man has free course in religion, and that whatever seems good to him, he may do. If it "works," or he sees "good" by his own definition of what is "good," then he reasons that it must surely be authorized. We have some brethren who say "We do many things for which we have no authority." Then they proceed to ask for the authority for a church building, seats, lights, Bible classes, etc. Well, it happens that there is authority for such, but the implication of those who raise this question is that we may have or use a thing without authority. This I deny. This makes man a law unto himself *"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps"* (Jer. 10:23).

Demanding Specific Authority When God Gave A Generic: There are some things which God authorized in general terms. The command "Go" in the great commission is general as to mode of transportation. "Teach" is generic and does not restrict us to a specific method. We may teach publicly, privately, use a tract, blackboard, chart, television, Bible class, literature, etc. What is to be taught is specified. The gospel of Christ is to be our subject matter. It may not be

perverted or changed in any way. The use of a tract, class, blackboard, or radio to teach another gospel is not authorized. Those who oppose Bible classes demand specific authority in an area where God gave general authority.

The command to assemble (**Heb. 10:25**) requires a place in which to assemble, though that place is not specified. The purpose for which the congregation assembles is specified, but the place is not. A building, seats, lights, classrooms -- these and other like items are expedients in carrying out that which the Lord has authorized. It would not be expedient to provide a building, seats, lights, etc., to facilitate recreation, or some other purpose than the work of teaching or the worship of the Lord. What God made generic, man had better leave there, and not demand a specific.

Failing To Recognize The Realm Of Expediency: What God authorized must be carried out. This involves the realm of things expedient. A thing may be authorized either specifically or generically, and in either case must be expedited. "Go" is generic, and an automobile helps us carry it out. "Teach" is generic, but a class or a blackboard expedites the command. "Sing" is specific, yet a song book, a song leader, and lights to see the page all aid us in carrying out what is required. I have known brethren who oppose the Bible classes (an expedient to "teach") who used the radio and the printed page (both expedients to "teach") to oppose the classes.

This is the problem of the "one cup" brethren. They want to make the validity of the Lord's Supper dependent upon a vessel. Jesus clearly indicated that the one cup is the fruit of the vine. It, being a liquid, must be in a container. This is expedient to the act of drinking the fruit of the vine. The "one container" brethren have made the container (an expedient) of equal importance with the fruit of the vine itself.

Generalizing Where God Has Specified: Those who

advocate the use of mechanical instruments of music are guilty of generalizing in an area where God has specified. Singing and playing are separate acts, and one does not perform either one by doing the other. Baptism is a specific act, a dipping or burial. Bread and fruit of the vine are specific elements in the Lord's Supper. If we used cherry pie and orange juice, we would be generalizing where God has specified.

The same thing applies to the organization through which the church acts. It is specified. The local church with its elders and deacons is the unit given (**Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Phil. 1:1**). Whatever work the church does, whether in evangelism, edification, or benevolence, must be done through that organization. This is just as specific as "sing." To build and maintain a missionary society through which to "teach" the Word of God, to build and maintain a benevolent society through which to "relieve" the need of needy saints (**1 Tim. 5:16**), is to be guilty of generalizing where God has specified.

In the realm of cooperation among churches, by the force of apostolic example God has specified. In a case where one church sent to another, the receiving church was in need (**2 Cor. 8 and 9; Rom. 15:25-28; 1 Cor. 16:1-4**). Relief was sent to the elders of each needy congregation (Acts 11:27-30). There is no exception to this. The sponsoring church practice is not according to this standard. It is a case of generalizing where God has specified.

When we presume to act without authority, or demand more than God did, or less than He did, or ignore the realm of expediency in doing that which God ordained, then we have run to extremes of error and great damage is the result. One of the characteristics of the "*man of sin*" (**2 Thes. 2:3,4**) is that he "*sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*" Let all men stay in their own place and leave God in His, and respect His authority in all things.