

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](http://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.

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## Consider: Acts 8:37 Needed News

Most all of our members with ongoing illness are doing better this week. **Dolline Fain** is doing well in recovering from her fall and received a good report from recent tests. **Conrad Harris** is doing ok, but is still undergoing treatment for his cancer. **Thelma Echols** is recovering from her cold.

**Dan's** brother, **Tim**, came home from the hospital this past Wednesday. He will be taking it easy for several weeks until the meningitis gets cleared up. **Judy Robinson, Venable's** Daughter-in-law, will be starting cancer treatments sometime in mid May.

The **Simpson Family** is out of town this weekend.

**JoBeth Henderson** will be in Texas for most of this week. Her Mom, **Jo Melton**, has a procedure scheduled near the middle of the week and JoBeth will take her and be with her for a day or two. **Dan** will be making a trip to get JoBeth to Henderson, TX early in the week and one to bring her back toward the end of the week. A quick trip to see the kids in Beaumont, TX may also be made.

# Seeking His Righteousness

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

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## Is It Authorized?

Ernest A. Finley

Men often evidence their lack of understanding of Bible teaching in the fields of authority and expediency. When my brethren protest the use of mechanical instruments of music in the worship of God on the ground that there is no authority for them, they who use them reply that we should not bother ourselves with objecting to their unauthorized practices when we do many things in worship for which there is no authority. "Where," they ask, "do you find authority for a song book, or song director in worship?" Further, they ask, "Where do you find authority for a collection plate?" They ask likewise for our scriptural authority for benches, church buildings, and electric lights.

Is there authority for a song book or song director? Our confused friends say, "No." But in this matter they err. Their error grows out of a failure to recognize that there are certain expedients which may be used in the execution of a command. The command is to "sing" (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16-17**). Whenever one uses a song book in his worship, is he doing something in addition to that which the Lord authorized? No, he is doing simply what He commanded -- just singing. Whether a song director is used or not does not change the fact that the congregation is doing only,

simply, and no more, than that which the Lord authorized. The fact that a man is standing before the congregation directing the singing does not take the action out of the realm of the Lord's authorized act of worship, singing. It is not some other kind of music. It is not something in addition to what the Lord commanded, for the director is just singing like everyone else. He thus serves to expedite the Lord's command. But observe that the Lord's command is specific. He did not command that we simply make music. If He had given such a generic command, then the individual would be at liberty to make any kind of music in worship, whether vocal or by mechanical instruments. When one plays a piano or organ in worship, he is not doing an act which the Lord has authorized, as is true when one simply sings, but has left the area of the specific kind of music that is authorized, simply singing, and has gone into an area of generic music-making where the Lord has given us no authority to act.

An expedient must serve in the actual accomplishment of the very act which the Lord has authorized. When a song book or a song director is utilized, something in addition to what the Lord has authorized is NOT being done. Singing, that which the Lord authorized, is all that is being done. But a mechanical instrument is an addition. Something is being done that the Lord did not command. The specific command is ignored and the kind of music offered is taken out of the realm of the specific and placed in the realm of the generic. In this, man assumes authority which the Lord has not delegated to him. The use of mechanical instruments of music in worship is using another type of music other than just singing. So this adds to the command the Lord has given to simply sing with our vocal chords in our worship to Him. It is going beyond what He has authorized. (**2John 9**).

The church building, benches, and lights are defensible on the ground of expediency. These facilities all serve to expedite a command, the command to teach. To these may be added tables, chairs, blackboards, projectors, etc. In utilizing these facilities, the church is not doing something in addition to that which the Lord authorized but is doing simply that which the Lord commanded, the work of teaching. A church building also expedites the command to assemble (**Hebrews 10:25**). If there is to be an assembly, there must be a place to assemble. The church may assemble in a rented hall, under a brush arbor, in a private house, under the shade of a tree, or in a building which the church owns. It is not imperative that the church have a building in which to assemble, because such is not specifically authorized, but a church building or any other expedient place of meeting is authorized under the command to assemble. The above mentioned facilities simply serve to expedite the command to assemble. Thus, the church, in using whatever facilities she may find at hand or purchase for the purpose of assembling, is not doing something for which there is no authority, but is simply doing that which the Lord commanded - assembling (**Hebrews 10:25**).

The Graphic Evangelist, Vol. 29, No. 22, Oct. 22, 1989

(This article, though written a few decades ago, reminds us of the need to constantly guard against those who look to the denominations for their worship practices. If a practice changes what God has instructed, it is not authorized by Scripture. God is the one whom we worship. Only He can instruct us in how to worship. An action that helps us carry out the command without changing the commanded action is an expedient to the command, not an addition. DLH)