

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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

Needed News

John Ragsdale is still suffering with back pain. He has a Dr appointment this week to see if anything can be done.

Thelma Echols is back home. She must have someone with her at all times and is on oxygen continually. **Ruben & Brenda Keisler** are staying with her.

Paula Laubach has another Dr appointment to find the cause of her abdominal pain.

Phyllis Jackson is getting around without her cane. She still has physical therapy three times a week.

Dottie Henderson, Dan's Mom, received a good report from her heart doctor last week. He feels the episode she had a month or so ago was not associated with her heart issues.

Summer time is just around the corner. What steps are you taking today to make certain that summertime and its many distractions will not interfere with your service to God and your brethren? If we do not prepare our hearts and minds now, we just might get overwhelmed in the "heat" of battle and make a mistake that will be costly to our soul. Now is the time to determine not to let worldly interest distract.

Seeking His Righteousness

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

April 2016

Volume 5 Number 15

Liberalism - Why I Changed

James Paul Cabler

For the last several years, I have seen gradual departure from the word of God in the congregation I was acquainted with. These departures were disturbing to my wife and me and we talked about it from time to time, not really knowing the solution. We also talked about these things to our friends and relatives and their reaction was always the same, "What can we do? It is in all the churches of Christ."

I knew there were other churches of Christ in the area that I had heard preachers and others call "anti" churches. I had no real personal knowledge of what they believed and practiced, but I thought that they would probably be worse than what we were in, because I had been lead to believe that they were churches against helping the orphans and widows, and did very little in preaching the gospel to the world. I know now that this is not true!

With misgivings already in my mind about the direction we were going, there then arose some unscriptural events and happenings in the congregation we were identified with that caused us to begin at once to search for a congregation that would preach and practice New Testament Christianity only. I will now briefly describe these events: As already stated, I was disturbed about a gradual departure from the word of God. In particular, I noticed more and more emphasis being given to social activities on the part of the church to draw people (instead of using the gospel - **Romans**

1:16). These practices even got to the point that they were overshadowing the actual worship service when money was solicited within the worship service for a planned trip to Opryland! During the hour of worship a brother was given time by one of the elders to solicit money for this strictly social event! Then he was given time again the Sunday after the trip to elaborate to the congregation on the trip! The Bible just does not give any authority for the church to engage in this sort of activity. We should respect the silence of the scriptures (**2John 9; 1Corinthians 4:6**). It is not the mission of the church to entertain saints or sinners!

After the events took place which I have just described, we began to search for a congregation that was following the New Testament in all things. This search led us to visit the Underwood Heights church of Christ. To our surprise (after hearing so much about the "anti" churches), we did not find this congregation preaching or practicing anything out of harmony with the New Testament! Instead, we found a congregation that believed the Bible to be the inspired word of God and that Christ is the final authority in all matters of religion. We found a congregation that gives book, chapter and verse for what they preach and practice. We also found a spirit of love, cooperation and interest in each individual to develop and grow spiritually in Christ, as we have never experienced in any other congregation we had previously worshipped with. After further study, we found that the teaching being done by "conservative" churches against human institutions to do the work of the church, and the emphasis given to individual responsibility, was in full accord with Bible teaching. The local congregation is the only organization we can read about in the New Testament to do the work God wants the church to do (**Philippians 1:1; Acts**

14:23). Scriptures such as **James 1:27** and **Galatians 6:10** that are used by "liberal" churches, in their attempt to support their stand on churches supporting human institutions to do benevolence, are directed to the individual Christian in the discharge of his individual duty, rather than to the church.

I believe that there are many brethren in "liberal" congregations who are as confused as we were, and honestly don't know what to do. This is why I am writing about our experience in our search for the truth. I beg of you as a Christian responsible to God, that you *"study to show thyself approved unto God...rightly dividing the word of truth"* as **2Timothy 2:15** teaches. Jesus said, *"...If ye continue in my word, then you are my disciples indeed."* (**John 8:31**). We must abide in the doctrine of Christ in order to be His disciples. *"He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."* (**2John 9**).

In conclusion, I say do not be afraid of what people call you - God and His word are right. *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God..."* (**Matthew 6:33**), and take your stand with a congregation that is not filled with all kinds of unscriptural activities! Stand with a people who are still making every effort to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent (**1Peter 4:11**). Your soul's salvation depends upon it!

(It is always good to gain understanding from one who has 'been there' as this author indicates he has. I do not know him but this article was previously published in the Underwood Heights bulletin. This Florence, AL area congregation is well known for its stand against error and they have added several families who have left liberalism for the Truth. May we be a beacon of Truth in our area, a light in a dark and perilous world (**Philippians**). DLH)