

For Our Information

John LaValla has been feeling a little better the last day or so. He has another appointment next week for testing.

Carolynn Richmond, Adene Gray's daughter, will be in Houston, TX for the several month for treatments.

Barbara Attwood's brother-in-law, Delbert Moller, is dealing with complication from lung cancer treatments. He is doing some better.

Keep our brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

similar thing. That is not preaching which is pleasing to God.

Preaching pleasing to God has for its subject the gospel of Jesus Christ (**Mark 16:15**). The preaching of "the gospel" has as its spiritual objective salvation -- "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*" (**Mark 16:16**).

The gospel is designed to change the thoughts and actions of people. Those who truly obey the gospel change from evil doers to become those who do good. What a pity it is that the social do gooders of our day are so preoccupied with trying to treat the symptoms of our social ills that they ignore the very cause of the ills and the God given germicide to eliminate sin which is the cause.

(Though it was written in 1971 this article addresses most of the problems we see today very well. Though I don't think we can lay all the blame at the feet of preachers. Responsibility to teach has been laid upon each of us. DLH)

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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Seeking His Righteousness

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Social Ills

Fred Shewmaker

Many churches have entered into various activities designed to treat the social ills of our day. However, if those churches would have spent half that time, effort and money fighting the cause of our social ills, much of the problem we now face would not exist.

What is the cause of our social ills?

My friend, that is no great mystery. It may be old fashioned to believe the cause of our social does exist, nevertheless, every social ill is traceable back to that little three letter word which so many of the preachers today refuse to utter. No, they do not deny that there is a cause



preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

2Timothy 4:2



1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

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behind each effect which we call a social ill. What they do is to simply refuse to identify that cause by its right and proper name. They talk about rights, wrongs, injustices, prejudices, bigotry, sickness or something else, but never does the modern socially orientated preacher of our day speak plainly and call the cause of all social ills by its name -- SIN.

Well, NOW, I have gone and done it! I used that old outdated word that the modern religionists have relegated to the junk heap of obsolete theological terms.

There are many people in modern denominations who are becoming fed up with the lack of any spiritual direction, stimulation and even awareness on the part of the preacher or the leadership of the church of which they are members. This also is true of some in the churches of Christ which have become more and more socially orientated than spiritually concerned. Symptoms of this disgust in the religious world of our day include loss of membership by the large denominations, growth of Holiness type denominations, increasing troubles between denominational preachers and the members of the congregation with which they are associated and movements against the "established church" -- to name a few.

It is not uncommon today to read the statement of some modernistic social action orientated preacher who has become disgusted with the desire of the members of the congregation with which he has been associated to hold to some conservative idea that has long been a part of that denomination's doctrine. The

Store In My Heart

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

While we might sometimes shy away from the statement, the inspired apostle Paul is very plain in stating that the brethren in Ephesus were saved by God, not themselves. There are many verses that speak of salvation. Most of them talk of responsibility that is laid upon the individual being saved. Certainly these show a need for action on our part, but they must not cause us to think we were saved by our own action. Scripture is clear that we are saved by God's grace, not our own action.

The gracious God saves us when our belief brings us to submissive obedience.

problem usually has its roots in the fact that members of the congregation still think the church still has a spiritual mission. The self-esteem of the preachers who write their statements is amazing to me. According to their statements, the problems they have stem from the hopeless ignorance or prejudices of the members of the congregation while those preachers are themselves knowledgeable of the remedy that can cure the social ills of the world. For those preachers, to hear them tell it, the situation has deteriorated into hopeless intolerability. They have decided to quit preaching and take a position with some social welfare agency. With welfare agencies employing more and more of these persons who have found it impossible to communicate with common folks, it is no wonder that our social ills steadily increase.

It is doubtful that those people ever were preachers in the first place. It is probable that most of them never preached their first sermon -- so how could they quit preaching? You cannot quit what you never began. Does that surprise you? Are you wondering what I mean? Well, if you weren't, just don't worry about it because I am going to explain anyway.

The kind of preachers(?) I have been writing about may have been speaking from a pulpit for years without ever preaching a sermon. Their speeches were lectures reviewing the latest best sellers, defending the, so-called, right of consenting adults to pervert themselves, harangues against the government and its law enforcement agencies for arresting, trying and convicting subversives or some