

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

**Matthew 7:15**

## Store In My Heart Ezra 1:2-3

Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem.

This begins Cyrus' decree to send Jews back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. Ezra tells part of the story of this return and rebuilding. Ezra is not introduced until near the middle of this book. His part of the story tells of restoring righteousness of the people thru reading and application of the Law.

This book deals with the spiritual rebuilding of Judah after their captivity. God works through Cyrus to preserve the remnant for His plan.



# Little by Little

**Tol Burk**

I have read that if you put a frog into a pot of boiling water it will immediately jump out—seems logical. But if you put a frog into water that is room temperature and being to heat it slowly, it will remain in the water and ultimately be killed. Mind you, I have never tried this cruel experiment, but it's common wisdom.

I tend to believe this because I've seen it work with members of progressive churches for many years. As the institutional churches have gone farther and farther away from the Bible, there are brethren who disagree with the innovations. Typically, a few will leave because of the error but most will stay—they may complain to the elders or even publicly, but in the end they stay. In the beginning they may not participate in the departure, whether it's a "Mother's day out" or a fellowship hall, but most of those who opposed it in the beginning, will "get over it". They may still grumble some, as they take their food to the fellowship hall. Eventually someone will suggest a "game night" in the fellowship hall— "we have plenty of tables and chairs, and room for everybody." "Besides, who has a house big enough to invite everybody over."

A few may think this is going too far, so they seek another congregation that is holding to the truth. But again, the vast majority will stay; perhaps more will try to justify this as "a time for people to get to know each other." As the children grow up, they also want to have fun at the church building. Cards, dominoes, board games are not what they want—they want a basketball goal at each end of the parking lot, so they can play basketball. Some of the old folks may be resistant—they may even bring up the need for authority. "The church has no authority to supply recreation equipment", to which someone

will reply, “So where’s the authority for playing dominoes in the fellowship hall?” Later church-sponsored baseball teams, which quickly become members of “church leagues”, you know where the Methodist church team, First Baptist church team, and all the other church teams play against one another.

As you look at churches of Christ that now have instrumental music in most, if not all their services, that serve the Lord’s Supper and take up the collection on Saturday, you may wonder how they got there. It wasn’t in giant leaps, it didn’t happen overnight—it happened little by little over a number of years. Several of the first churches to introduce instrumental music into their worship services issued statements similar to this one before they did so “after over a year of intense study and prayer, the elders feel guided to make this change”. Rest assured the groundwork was already being laid as they “studied” this. It was interesting that they continued having one “traditional” or acapella service, so they wouldn’t lose the older people. I noticed that the Oak Hills church, in San Antonio, TX (originally “church of Christ” was part of the name, but 10+ years ago that was dropped from the name) doesn’t seem to have any acapella services anymore.

You see, once you can do one little thing without Bible authority, the door is open to everything. One step away will always lead to another, and another. The driving force becomes “what do the people want”, not “what does God want.” Brother J.D. Tant, a Gospel Preacher of the 1920’s-1950’s adopted the practice of ending most of his articles by saying, “Brethren, we are drifting”. What would he say today?

If you’re in a church that is drifting farther and farther away from the truth you have two choices—drift with it, maybe even complaining the whole time or you leave it for a church that is still standing for the truth. Don’t kid yourself, that such a church can be, or will be changed. Once a church rejects bible authority it will not turn back! It’s up to you—don’t be like the frog that is boiled because it doesn’t notice the little changes in temperature.

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

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The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

## For Our Information

**Ruben Keisler** will have a doctor consult on Thursday for possible heart bypass surgery.

**Brenda Keisler** should get a shot for her neck this week. She is also having hip and lower back trouble

**Gloria Hurst** is slowly but steadily improving.

**Vickie McNeas** is slowly recovering from her vehicle accident.

**Deana Leshner** was dismissed by her doctor last week.

**Sue Soliday’s** brother is about the same as of last week.

Sunday Evening – **Nehemiah 5:14** Wednesday - **John 4:43**