

For Our Information

Phyllis Ragsdale is taking medication to relieve her bronchitis.

Joyce Venable is still having some stomach issues and pain.

Paula Laubach is home today with Adelaide who just got braces and is having some pain as she adjusts.

The Simpson family is out of town this weekend.

Remember one another as we pray to the Father each day

Contact Us

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

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

church at Jerusalem would have been well on the road to oblivion. The fate of the church at Thessalonica would have been similarly distressing, for they suffered affliction from the early days of the church there (Acts 17:1-2; 1Thessalonians 1:6). Yet from them the Word of the Lord sounded forth in Macedonia and Achaia and elsewhere, so that their faith became an influence for good wherever people heard about it (1Thessalonians 1:8). Even so, little churches today can be great influences for good in the Gospel, even in other nations. Many little churches have had and are having fellowship in preaching the gospel in Australia The Philippines, Africa, Asia, Europe, and South and Central America. Those who are quick to judge the effectiveness or lack thereof of little churches would do well to exercise discretion and caution, remembering that they may lack vital information concerning the work and influence of those little groups of saints.

Seeking His Righteousness

Tanner St Bulletin Volume 7 Week 39

October 2018

Local Congregations

Gilbert Alexander

In the New Testament, local churches of Christ (God) were groups of Christians in various places, united locally as a body to work together and worship together in keeping with the authority and instruction of Christ. They were recognizable bodies organized according to God's plan (Philippians 1:1). Functioning as a body in the work that Christ had given them to do collectively. Some of those churches had a number of serious problems among their members (Note the church at Corinth). It was possible for them to become



And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Acts 11:26



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

complacent and lukewarm (Note Laodicea), to leave their first love (Note Ephesus in Revelation 2), to die spiritually (Note Sardis in Revelation 3) and thus to lose their identity as belonging to Christ (Revelation 2:5). On the other hand, any of those churches could be faithful to the Lord by diligence and respect for His authority. Note the commendation of the church at Jerusalem (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35; 6:1-7), at Antioch (Acts 11:20-26; 13:1-3), at Philippi (Philippians 1:3-7), at Thessalonica (1Thessalonians 1:2-10).

The saints in local churches today must put on the whole armor of God in order to stand and defend against conformity to the world, lack of zeal, ignorance, unbelief, immorality, failure to remain faithful to the authority of Christ, and lack of love for God and the saints (1John 5:3; 3:14-18). The strength of any local church is determined by the strength of each member of the body (Ephesians 4:15-16). Always, by reason of maturity, some are stronger and some are weaker. The strong ones must encourage and support the weak ones (1Thessalonians 5:14; Romans 14:1-23; 15:1-7), helping them to become stronger. Each of us must remember that we all have our weaker points and times of weakness. We have no cause for vainglory, but much reason for humility and concern for others.

Membership in a local assembly of saints is a basic part of being faithful Christians. Communion in the Lord's Supper, mutual edification through singing, teaching, public prayers, and the collection of funds for the authorized work of the church were all a part of the lives of Christians in the New Testament, and were practiced in local churches.

Store In My Heart

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

The Gospel - The Good News of Christ - reveals to us the righteousness of God. He gave His Son so that we could be free from sin. A sacrifice was necessary, yet He knew we could never pay the price for our sins. The only way that was just and right was for a perfect sacrifice to die. Jesus is that sacrifice.

We need to live our life as a memorial to the life He gave for us. We need to tell the world of His sacrifice.

An important question: Are you a faithful, functioning member of a local church of Christ where you can worship God and have fellowship in the work of that church without violating the authority of Christ?

Evaluating a local congregation and its effectiveness in a community is not a simple task. Population shifts affect the number of members in a local church. Such shifts may be caused by economic changes, persecution, or the relocation of people who have an interest in spiritual things. If some of our modern evaluators had visited Jerusalem in the time stated in Acts 8:1-4, they might have concluded that the work there was falling apart and that anyone supporting preachers there would be putting their money into a dry hole. Numbers were surely decreasing as people were scattered by persecution. Little hope for a change for the better could be seen in the immediate future; and with the Lord's prophecy of the destruction of the city looming ever nearer, some people perhaps would have favored closing the doors of the kingdom there and moving to more fertile fields.

The scattering of the saints at Jerusalem to many other places did not destroy the influence of the church there. It rather worked to the spread of the gospel in many other places as those who were scattered by persecution went everywhere preaching the Word Acts 8:4. If the ones scattered had been discouraged and had not dared to speak out for the truth lest they be persecuted still more, then the