IT IS WRITTEN

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO

EDITORS

COY GARRISON ..... 523 S. Center St., Grand Prairie, Texas
L. E. ATCHLEY ..... 625 Happy Valley, Carlsbad, New Mexico

DECEMBER, 1950

NO INNOVATIONS

Christ told Peter that upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. Consequently all members of the Church of Christ feel that the Church of Christ is the only place of refuge that there is on earth for Christ's followers, but sad to say people who have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine, and doing what their conscience tells them is right, because they have been persuaded by man, might be one of those who Christ said would say, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name have done many wonderful works?" Then he said, "Depart from me ye that work iniquity I never knew you". Why would he say this? Because they taught for doctrine the commandments of men.

The worship and laws laid down by the apostles are something that we don't change or tamper with. Solomon said, "There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end there of is the ways of death." Don't let us forget the examples in the Old Testament concerning people who disobeyed God's commands. Gen. 3. Mother Eve was beguiled by the serpent who only added the word NOT. So she and Adam were driven from God's place of refuge. II Sam. 6:6,8 tells how Uzza put forth his hand to the ark, and the punishment meted out because he disobeyed God's command. No doubt he thought in his own mind it was alright and would do every one good, but it wasn't according to God's plan.

Let us remember this as we go farther into this subject what Peter told Simon the sorcer in Acts 8, when he offered Peter money for the power of laying on of hands. "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God."

Paul said in I Cor. 11:1,2, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I have delivered them unto you". Acts 20:20. "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house". Gal. 1:12, "For neither was I taught it, except by the revelation of Christ". And finally Paul said in I Cor. 14 that "God

is not the author of confusion, but of peace as in all the churches of the saints". And, "Let all things be done decently and in order".

Therefore if we find the apostles teaching how to conduct our worship by being guided into all truths by the Holy Spirit, we know that these truths could not be classed as an innovation.

First we will take up the assembly. Paul said in Heb. 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of our selves together, as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" In I Cor. he speaks of Christ's followers coming together in one place, and in Acts 20:7, we find the disciples come together to break bread, and Paul preached unto them. Do you believe these commandments? Are they just and right?

Singing and Praying. The apostle Paul said in I Tim. 2:1,2, "I exhort therefor, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty." Do you believe this? Is it just and right? And do you do this according to his commands? You may say well the command is not specific enough, or times and customs have changed since then. The book says Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

The apostles didn't give commands in a muddled up language, neither did they give them for a certain time or to a certain type of individuals and Paul is very plain when he tells us how to sing and how to pray. I Cor. 14:15. "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also. I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also". Consequently you must pray with the spirit, or have the desire and faith in prayer Paul speaks of in I Tim. 2:8. "I will therefore, that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath or doubting". The understanding, you must know why and what you are praying for, in other words showing God the preeminence in every thing. You must sing in exactly the same manner. Do you believe these commands? Are they just and right? But some will say what about a musical instrument to help in our song service? Can you read where the opostles commanded, or even used one, or left an inference that you could use one? If a musical instrument can lead the song service, it can also lead the prayer service. Now Paul was very specific about the singing. Eph. 5:19. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord". Col. 3:16. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you righly, in all wisdom, teaching, and admonisting one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord". So a musical instrument is not commanded; it can't teach, can't play by its self, it hasn't any grace or favor, neither can it give any. It can only carry the melody in the air, and Paul says the melody must be in the heart. (*Continued next month.*)

Written by Bro. Bert Weakley, Modesto, Calif.

CONTINUED FROM THE NOVEMBER ISSUE

Bro. Clements would like authority for some of the things which the Church of Christ is practicing, and for some of the things which they have in their worship. Quote: I will pay five dollars for Scripture that will allow men to practice these things in the church. Where is the Scripture for the instrumental music in the church? Where is the pattern for the Sunday School in the church? Where is the authority for men to appoint women to teach in the church? Where is the pattern for individual cups? Where did Christ, when he instituted the supper, break off a piece of bread and eat it? Where did any of the Apostles say that Christ did such? Where did Christ say that he drank of the fruit of the vine in the supper? Where did Christ tell the apostles for the one waiting at the table, to break off a piece and eat it first of all, then pass the remainder to the rest? Where in the New Testament did Christ tell us that the fruit of the vine should be fermented or unfermented? Where did Christ in the New Testament say that he would build more than one church? Now brethren, if these digressions are not dividing the Church please tell me what is dividing it? Now Paul said II Tim. 3:16 ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY THE INSPIRATION OF GOD, AND IS PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS: THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE PERFECT, THOROUGHLY FURNISHED UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK, and again Coll. 3:17, "What ere ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord". So if we do anything by His authority, we can read it from God's word. Now Paul said Rom. 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". And again Heb. 11:6, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him". And again Rom. 14:23, "That which is not of faith is sin". So let us sum up the facts. If we are guilty of any such practices as mentioned above, then we sin. So I am going to tell this Brother from Mt. Pleasant, Texas that it is he that is due to come back to the Bible. Now let us take heed that we do not practice any of these things, that our home might be in Heaven.

Written in love of the truth.

R. C. Clements, Broken Bow, Okla.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

More from Bro. Clements:

Just a few thoughts to the brethren. Are we really doing all we can do for the advancement of the church? Couldn't we help Bro. Garrison and Bro. Atchley double the size of *IT IS WRITTEN*? Now is the time for the church to strike for the cause of the truth. We need more space for articles and of course it will take more money to do it. I am sure that we can do that and not any of us be hurt at all. We need more letters from the brethren. It would be of help to them and give all courage to carry on. I say to you,

Bro. Garrison and Bro. Atchley, double the size of the paper, and I believe the church will get behind the effort.

Yours for the truth, R. C. Clements

Thanks a lot, Bro. Clements, for the articles, and also for the check for $3.00.—C. G.

A Card from Bro. C. A. Waller that should have appeared in the November issue.

Dear Bro. Garrison:

I have moved to Ft. Towson, Okla., and so far have found no loyal congregation near here. Broken Bow, Okla., is 43 miles away and is the nearest congregation. I enjoy the paper a lot and as soon as I get adjusted here, I plan to send an article to the paper.

My address is Box 396, Ft. Towson, Okla.

Your Brother in Christ, C. A. Waller

Dear Bro. Waller:

I am sorry that your card was misplaced, but I am glad it was not destroyed. We sure appreciate your card, and would most certainly appreciate an article from you soon.—C. G.

We would like to acknowledge and express our appreciation to the Churches at Somerton, Ariz., and LaHabra, Calif., for their continued monthly support for *IT IS WRITTEN*.

We have been thinking of doubling the size of the paper but have never had quite enough material until now. Bro. Clements writes in suggesting the same. This would give space for more articles from more Brethren. Also would be able to put complete articles in one issue rather than run them over in two or more issues. I'm sure this would be much better than dividing them up as we have in the past. Of course this would almost double our expense. However, we have enough in the treasury to put out a double sized paper for several months. What do you say, Brethren? Do you want a larger paper? Will enough Brethren write to keep it going? This is your paper, write and let us know what you want. I think we have enough material for next month's paper, but if you have an article send it in and will run them as we receive them.—L. E. A.

Received a nice letter from Bro. Cavin of the LaHabra, Calif., congregation stating he and wife were much better. Also the Church was at peace and doing very nicely. All seeming to take an interest in the Lord's work. I know they all miss the Paul Ferguson family who have recently moved to Arkansas. But of course the loss to one congregation will be gain for another. Bro. Ferguson is a faithful servant of the Lord and will be working wherever he is. —L. E. A.