IT IS WRITTEN

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO

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AUGUST, 1951

A GOOD AND STEADFAST DISCIPLE

In as much as I have not written very much in the paper, I shall attempt to write this article with the thought in mind that I feel that others might want to write also. As we have many who are good writers, and are capable of presenting facts worthy of consideration, it is our desire that these worthy penmen would take the lead in writing articles. However, with your permission, I shall endeavor to write something which we find the Bible to teach. Now to the article.

It is a pleasant thought to think that someone is good, and of course more pleasing to find that one is both good and steadfast. First of all we find that God is good. Psa. 25:8 "Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way." Here we must conclude that the Lord is not only good, but is willing to teach sinners in the way which is called good. Jer. 6:16, "Thus sayeth the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk there in, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Again we find that the good way is spoken of. I Sam. 12:23, "Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and right way." Here again the good and right way is spoken of. Furthermore we find that David said, Psa. 37:23, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way." Now let us ask a question. HOW IS A GOOD MAN FOUND, AND WITH WHAT DEGREE OF SOUNDNESS DO WE FIND IN THE MAN WHICH, WHOSE STEPS ARE GUIDED BY THE LORD? In Mark 4:1, 8, "And Jesus began to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat on the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. And he taught them many

things in parables, and said unto them in his doctrine, Harken; behold there went out a sower to sow: And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and the fouls came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, some sixty, and some an hundred fold." Here we have found that the good man received the word of God with an honest heart, and cultivated his knowledge to the extent that he brought forth, in a bountiful way.

In as much as we find the Bible to teach that man has the right of choosing, for in Josh. 24:15, "Choose you this day whom ye shall serve." The Lord said in Matt. 6:24, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." So we can understand that a good man will serve God, in being drawn to him, for Jesus said in John 12:32, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, shall draw all men unto me." But it is agreed that we should not only study the good man, but also the being steadfast. Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth said I Cor. 15:58, "So dearly beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your work in the Lord is not in vain." Just to remind ourselves again, let us read Gal. 5:9, "And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Let us not forget the exhortion of Paul in Heb. 2:1,2, "THEREFORE WE OUGHT TO GIVE THE MORE earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoked by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." Here again we are reminded to remain steadfast, and not to neglect, for Paul said, Heb. 4:9,14, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, JESUS THE SON OF GOD, LET US HOLD FAST OUR PROFESSION." (In steadfastness). We find there is a reward for the man who is good and steadfast, Rev. 2:10, "BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH, AND

I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN OF LIFE." Again in John 14:1,3. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there you may be also." While on the other hand, unto the man who is not faithful nor obedient, let us read II Thess. 1:7, "And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." So friend, wherever you may be, if you have not become obedient to the teaching of the Lord, believe that Jesus is the Christ, repent of your sins, confess the name of Christ, in that he is the son of God, and submit yourselves unto baptism of sins, Acts 2:38. Then you will be accounted well accepted in the Lord's sight, and then be able to withstand, with the eye of faith, all the trials and tribulations which might confront you, AND TAKE THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD.

Yours in Christ,

Coy Garrison

THE CHURCH

I believe I would be safe in saying that all religious faiths agree that the apostles started out a divine church, a perfect church in practice and teaching. A church by divine authority, the church Christ said he would build, Matt. 16:18. And the church in Matt. 16:18 is singular, (ONE,) not churches as in the plural. Any church can only be divine when it is controlled by divine law or authority. If an institution is controlled by literal law or authority, that institution is just as literal as the law that controls it. Then to find the divine church that the apostles represented, we must look for one controlled by divine authority only. II Tim. 3:16,17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." Then for the church to be governed by divine authority, it must be governed by the scriptures, using scriptures only for doctrine.

Now suppose we go to the apostles for guidance in regards to divine authority. II Jno. 10,11, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine," (What doctrine? answer: the doctrine II Tim. 3:16,17, the doctrine the apostles taught.) We read on, "Receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

What's that, partaker of his evil deeds? YES BROTHER, if he brings not the divine doctrine, he has an evil deed, and when we accept him, or bid him God speed, we partake of that evil deed. Then for the church to be guided by divine law, it cannot accept another doctrine that cannot be read in the scriptures. So we will read again Gal. 1:8, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel, (doctrine) unto you than that which we (The apostles) have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Why reject another gospel? Answer: another gospel (doctrine) would be of literal authority, and not of divine, and to receive such would be being controlled by a literal law. Rom. 15:18, "For I will not dare to speak of any of these things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed." Paul would not dare mention any thing which he did not receive of Christ, even though he did it for the purpose of making the Gentiles obedient. Acts 20:27, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the council of God." Phil. 4:19, "But my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Col. 3:17, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus," — But we can all do in the name of the Lord Jesus only when we do it by his authority. Eph. 3:21, "Unto him (God) be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all the ages, world without end."

Now in conclusion: how can one detect the divine church the apostles represented from a so-called church controlled and governed by a literal law? Simple enough if it's practice and teachings are found in the divine word of God, as in II Tim. 3:16,17. If not it is another doctrine, as in II Jno. 10,11, and does not come from divine authority, as in Col. 3:17, Phil. 4:19. Now there are some that have received into their house he that brings not this doctrine, as in II Jno. 10,11, and like most of the churches of Asia (Rev. second and third chapters) were in fault, and were commanded to repent, as well as a host of denominational churches without divine authority. Now to determine whether a church is divine, whether it is the one Jesus built Matt. 16:18, or identified with, and represented by the apostles, we only have to examine God's divine law, and see if their teachings and practices are found in all scripture as in II Tim. 3:16,17. Can we find their teachings and practices in all the council of God Acts 20:27? Are they supplied by Christ Jesus Phil 4:19? Is their conversation as that which becometh the gospel of Christ Phil. 1:27? Are their teachings and practices in the name (authority) of Jesus Christ Col. 3:17? Do they give God the glory in the church Eph. 3:21, or try to do so in some other institution founded by man? Warning! If the teachings and practices of any institution called church, does not harmonize with the scriptures given in this article, steer clear of it, for it is not divine. It's another gospel, another doctrine.

Written in the spirit of meekness,

W. E. Daniels, Ozone, Ark.