APRIL 1969

"IT IS THE BEST I C AN DO UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES"

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HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU HEARD GOOD SISTERS SAY THIS? H OW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU EVEN SAID I T YOURSELF? AT TIMES WHEN WE WERE DOING A LITTLE LESS,OR A LITTLE MORE THAN THE LORD COMMANDED US,AS CHRISTIAN WOMEN TO DO.THIS IS USUALLY SAID,MEANING THAT BECAUSE OF ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES,"IT IS THE BEST I CAN DO NOW." EVEN ZEALOUS,WELL-MEANING WOMEN HAVE A WAY OF MAKING EXCUSES SOMETIMES WHEN WE ARE A LITTLE DOUBTFUL OF THE COURSE WE ARE PERSUING.SOMETiMES WE HAVE A WAY OF USEING FATHERS,HUSBANDS,OR CHILDREN AS EXCUSES.

FOR INSTANCE,HER HUSBAND IS NOT A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN.HER CHILDREN ARE GROWING UP WITHOUT THE ADVANTAGES OF A CHRISTIA N FATHER'S TEACHINGS,AND NO PLACE TO GO TO CHURCH.SHE WORRIES ABOUT THE INFLUENCES OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD ON THEM.SHE ALSO HUNGERS FOR ASSOCIATION WITH FELLOW-CHRISTIANS.BUT THERE IS NO FAITHFUL CONGREGATION IN REACH OF THEM.

SO,IN FEAR OF HER CHILDREN GROWING UP DEVOID OF CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE,AND WITH SOME DOUBT AT FIRST ABOUT THE WISDOM OF HER DECISION; SHE STARTS TAKING HER CHILDREN TO THE SERVICES OF A CHURCH THAT WEARS TH LORD'S NAME,BUT IS USING MAN'S IDEAS AND METHODS IN ONE OR MORE POINTS OF CONDUCTING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.SHE TELLS HERSELF,"IT IS THE BEST I CA DO NOW.AT LEAST WE CAN ASSOCIATE WITH GOOD MORAL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE."

BUT IS IT THE BEST WE CAN DO? EVEN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES? SO MANY GOOD WOMEN HAVE AGONIZED OVER THIS DECISION.A LOT OF THEM DECIDE ON A COURSE THAT EVENTUALLY LEAD HER AND HER CHILDREN FROM OBEDIENCE. THIS IS THE IMPORTANT SUBJECT I WANT TO STUDY WITH YOU TODAY."IS IT THE BEST I CAN DO UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES?" WE KNOW CERTAINLY,IF WE STOP TO THINK,THAT WHAT WE START OUT TOLERATING IN THIS WAY;WE COME TO ACCEPT, AND FINALLY TO EMBRACE AS GOOD.MANY MAKE NO EFFORT TO GO BACK TO THE XRN TRUTH,BUT CONTINUE ON THE COURSE OF LEAST RESISTANCE,FINALLY TO TAKE THEIR STAND AGAINST THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL.

PAUL WARNS US NOT TO BE DECEIVED IN THIS WAY.THAT EVIL COMMUNICATIONS CORRUPT GOOD MANNERS(1 COR.15:33).HE TELL S US TO "ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCES OF EVIL"(1 THESS.5:22). OF COURSE WE KNOW THAT MORAL XXX EVILS AND SINS ARE INCLUDED IN THESE WARNINGS;BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT DISOBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD IS CERTAINLY EVIL AND SIN.THE PSALMIST, DAVID SAYS,"BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT WALKETH NOT IN THE COUNSEL OF THE UNGODLY,NOR STANDETH IN THE WAY OF SINNERS"(PS.1).WE ARE NOT TO WALK AFTER THE COUNSEL,THE ADVICE,TEH TEACHINGS OF THE UNGODLY.BUT NEITHER ARE WE TO STAND IN THE WAY OF SINNERS.THEN HE CONTRASTS THE RIGHTEOUS WAY WITH THAT OF THE UNGODLY,SINNERS.THE OBEDIENT ARE THE RIGHTEOUS;THE DISOBEDIENT ARE THE UNGODLY,SINNERS."BUT HIS DELIGHT IS IN THE LAW OF THE LORD, AND IN HIS LAW DOTH HE MEDITATE DAY AND NIGHT."

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE DO ASSEMBLE WITH THE CHURCH.

HEB.10:25-31,"NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER,AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS;BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER:AND SO MUCH THE MORE AS YE SEE THE DAY APPROACHING.FOR IF WE SIN WILFULLY AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH,THERE REMAINETH NO MORE SACRIFICE FOR SINS,BUT A CERTAIN FEARFUL LOOKING FOR OF JUDGEMENT AND FIERY INDIGNATION,WHICH SHALL DEVOUR THE ADVERSARIES.HE THAT DESPISED MOSES' LAW DIED WITHOUT MERCY UNDER TWO OR THREE WITNESSES:OF HOW MUCH SORER PUNISHMENT SUPPOSE YE,THAT HE BE THOUGHT WORTHY,WHO HATH TRODDEN UNDERFOOT THE SON OF GOD,AND HATH COUNTED THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT,WHEREWITH HE WAS SANCTIFIED,AN UNHOLY THING,AND HATH DONE DESPITE TO THE SPIRIT OF GRACE? FOR WE KNOW HIM THAT HATH SAID,VENGEANCE BELONGETH TO ME,I WILL RECOMPENCE, SAITH THE LORD.AND AGAIN,THE LORD SHALL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.IT IS A FEARFUL THING TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE LIVING GOD.".

BUT WORLDLY WAYS AND METHODS OF CARRYING ON THE WORSHIP,HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AND ESTABLISHED IN SO MANY CONGREGATIONS THAT IN ORDER TO ASSEMBLE AND WORSHIP WITH THEM YOU ARE OBLIGATED TO STAND IN THE WAY OF DOCTRINES AND COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.WHEN WE DO THIS,OUR WORSHIP BECOMES VAIN IN THE SIGHT OF GOD (MATTH.15:9).STANDING IN THE WAY OF SINNERS.IS IT THE BEST WE CAN DO?

BUT WE EXCUSE OURSELVES:"THESE PEOPLE ARE SO ZEALOUS;THERE IS SO LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM AND THE FAITHFUL CONGREGATION;AND THEY DO SO MUCH MORE WORK.I THINK THE LORD WILL EXCUSE DOING SOMETHING A LITTLE WRONG,RATHER THAN DOING NOTHING AT ALL." FROM A HUMAN VIEWPOINT,THIS SOUNDS LIKE GOOD REASONING.BUT BE WARE! YOU ARE SLIPPING.THE LORD SAID IN LUKE 16:10,"HE THAT IS FAITHFUL IN THAT WHICH IS LEAST IS FAITHFUL ALSO IN MUCH:AND HE THAT IS UNJUST IN THE LEAST IS UNJUST ALSO IN MUCH." THE LORD DEMANDS THAT WE BE FAITHFUL EVEN IN THE VERY LEAST.2 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." IF IT CAN'T BE READ IN THE SCRIPTURES,IT IS NOT GOOD FOR ANY CHRISTIAN EFFORT.IT IS NOT A GOOD WORK.IT IS AN EVIL WORK,A SIN.NO,IT IS NOT JUST THE CONGREGATION THAT WEARS THE NAME OF CHRIST,AND ACCOMPLISHES SO MUCH IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD,THAT WILL WIN THE LORD'S APPROVAL. IN MATTH.7:21THE TELLS A CERTAIN ZEALOUS,MUCH ACCOMPLISHING GROUP WEARING HIS NAME:"I NEVER KNEW YOU:DEPART FROM ME,YE THAT WORK INIQUITY." WHY? "NOT EVERYONE THAT SAITH LORD,LORD,SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN:BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN.WE MUST KNOW THE WILL OF GOD,AND DO IT;IF WE WANT ETERNAL LIFE.

THE WORD OF GOD AND THE WAYS OF MEN CANNOT BE EQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER.ISA.55:8-9,"FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS,NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS,SAITH THE LORD.FOR AS THE H EAVENS ARE ABOVE THE EARTH SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS,AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS." AND WHERE DO WE LEARN WHAT ARE THE LORD'S THOUGHTS AND WAYS??? THERE IS NO WAY EXCEPT THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES HE HAS GIVEN US FOR THAT PURPOSE. AND BY THEM COME FAITH.ANY OTHER SOURCE IS UNFAITHFUL AND DIGRESSIVE. ASSEMBLING WITH THEM,BEING IDENTIFIED WITH THEM,WE WILL BE PARTAKERS OF THEIR SINS AND THEIR DOOM.

DEAR SISTER,WORSHIPPING WITH THEM,STANDING WITH THEM,BECAUSE THERE IS NO FAITHFUL CONGREGATION N EAR YOU,IS NOT THE BEST YOU CAN DO. THE BEST WE CAN DO IS FIRST,LAST,AND ALWAYS TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND OBEDIENT TO HIS WORD OF TRUTH CONCERNING US.EVEN IF IT MEANS STANDING ALONE.YOU ARE NOT ALONE,ACTUALLY,IF YOU ARE STANDING ON THE ROCK OF AGES.ONE ON THE LORD'S SIDE IS A MAJORITY.BUT REMEMBER:"FOR I TESTIFY UNTO EVERY MAN THAT HEARETH THE WORDS OF THE PROPHESY OF THIS BOOK,IF ANY MAN SHALL ADD UNTO THESE THINGS,GOD SHALL ADD UNTO HIM THE PLAGUES THAT ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK;AND IF ANY MAN SHALL TAKE AWAY FROM THE WORDS OF THE BOOK OF THIS PROPHESY,GOD SHALL TAKE AWAY HIS PART OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE,AND OUT OF THE HOL Y CITY,AND FROM THE THINGS THAT ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK"(REV.22:18-19).

READ GAL.1:6-10,NOTICE HOW SERIOUSLY PAUL WARNS US NOT TO BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING,ANY MAN PREACHES TO US IS GOSPEL,IF IT ISN'T THE SAME HE HAS PREACHED.AND THINGS HE PREACHED ARE ALL RECORDED IN THE BIBLE.HE GOES ON FURTHER TO SAY IF EVEN AN ANGEL FROM HEAVEN CAME AND TRIED TO TEACH US ANYTHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HE TAUGHT:"LET HIM BE ACCURSED."

PHIL.1:27,PAUL TELLS USTO "ONLY STAND FAST IN THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL." ROM.10:17,FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD.AND ROM.14:23,"WHATSOEVER IS NOT OF FAITH IS SIN." THIS IS CLEAR:"STAND FAST IN THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL."FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD." WHAT WE HEAR FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE IS NOT OF FAITH.AND WHATSOEVER IS NOT OF FAITH IS SIN.THESE PEOPLE,REGARDLESS OF HOW ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS THEY ARE,ARE IN THE EYES OF GO D,SINNERS.WE ARE NOT TO STA ND IN THE WAY OF SINNERS.NOT TO WORK WITH THEM.NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH THEM.IF WE ASSEMBLE WITH THEM,STANDING WITH THEM,PAUL WARNS US IN ROM.16:17-18,THAT WITH THEIR GOOD WORDS AND FAIR SPEECHES THEY WILL DECEIVE US.HE ALSO TELLS US IN PHIL 3:16-19,THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE THE ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST.

WE ARE POSITIVELY COMMANDED TO WITHDRAW OURSELVES FROM AL L WHO TEACH OR PRACTICE ANYTHING PAUL DID NOT TEACH,2 THESS.3:6.ROM.15:18,PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES SAID HE WOULD NOT DARE EVEN TO SPEAK OF ANY THING GOD HAD NOT WROUGHT BY HIM TO MAKE THE GENTILES OBEDIENT IN WORD AND DEED.HOW DARE WE WORK AND WORSHIP WITH PEOPLE TODAY WHO DARE TO TEACH THESE UNWRITTEN THINGS AS ITEMS AND WAYS OF WORSHIP? PAUL DIDN'T DARE SPEAK OF THEM.BUT MANY,MANY PREACHERS TODAY DO BOLDLY DARE TO TEACH SUCH THINGS.HOW DARE WE SAY,"IT IS THE BEST I CAN DO?"

BUT,THE LORD COMMANDED US TO ASSEMBLE.AND YOU SAY,THERE IS NO WHERE ELSE I CAN ASSEMBLE,UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

YES,THE LORD COMMANDED US TO ASSEMBLE,BUT TO SERVE HIM BY FAITH. HOW CAN WE THINK IT PLEASES HIM FOR US TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST,WHO SERVE NOT THE LORD BUT THEIR OWN BELLY?

PAUL WARNS IN 1 TIM.5:22,"BE NOT PARTAKERS OF OTHER MEN'S SINS: KEEP THYSELF PURE."

IN 2 JNO.8-11,WE ARE WARNED THAT WE CAN BEHAVE SO THAT WE CAN EVEN LOSE WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY GAINED:BY SIMPLY TAKING PART WITH PEOPLE WHO DO NOT ABIDE IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST.BY STANDING WITH THOSE TRANSGRESSORS WHO USE MAN'S METHODS AND TEACHINGS.HE TELLS US NOT TO EVEN WISH THEM GOD SPEED (GOOD HEALTH).ELSE WE ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING OUR REWARD BY TAKING OUR STAND WITH THEM.

REV.18:4-5,"COME OUT OF HER,MY PEOPLE,THAT YE BE NOT PARTAKERS OF HER SINS,AND THAT YE RECEIVE NOT OF HER PLAGUES.FOR HER SINS HAVE REACHED UNTO H EAVEN,AND GOD HATH REMEMBERED HER INIQUITIES." IF WE DO NOT COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM,AND SEPARATE OURSELVES,NOW.WHEN THE LORD

COMES,IT WILL BE TOO LATE.THEN HE WILL SEND HIS ANGELS TO GATHER OUT OF HIS KINGDOM ALL THINGS THAT OFFEND AND THEM THAT DO INIQUITY."AND SHALL CAST THEM INTO A FURNACE OF FIRE WHERE THERE SHALL BE WAILING AND GNASHING OF TEETH"(MATTH.13:40-43).REMEMBER,SOME WILL EVEN ARGUE AT THAT TIME,HOW MUCH GOOD THEY HAVE DONE IN HIS NAME.BUT HE WILL CALL THEM WORKERS OF INIQUITY AND COMMAND THEM TO DEPART HE DOSEN'T EVEN KNOW THEM:BECAUSE THEIR WORKS WERE DONE BY MAN'S METHODS AND TEACHINGS,NOT BY THE FAITH THAT COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD.BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE RIGHTEOUS WHO HAVE LIVED AND WORKED BY THE FAITH OF THE WORD OF GOD "SHALL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN IN THE KINGDOM OF THE FATHER."

SISTER,THE BEST WE CAN DO;THE ONLY THING WE CAN AFFORD TO DO;IS TO STAND FAST IN THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL.TAKE YOUR DELIGHT IN THE LAW OF THE LORD,MEDITATE ON IT DAY AND NIGHT.BE NOT PARTAKER OF OTHER MEN'S SINS.KEEP OURSELVES PURE.REMEMBER THERE IS A WAY THAT SEEMETH RIGHT UNTO A MAN,BUT THE END THEREOF ARE THE WAYS OF DEATH,PROV.14:12.

REMEMBER,TOO,THAT PAUL WARNED US TH AT THERE WOULD BE SLICK-TONGUED PREACHERS,CLAIMING TO BE PREACHERS OF THE GOSPEL,SPEAKING OF THINGS HE DID NOT TEACH.AND WE ARE NOT TO BE SURPRISED AT THIS,BECAUSE, SATAN,THEIR MASTER,IS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED INTO AN ANGEL OF LI GHT.1 COR. 11:13,

JUST REMEMBER,IF IT IS NOT OF FAITH IT IS SIN.AND FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD.NOWHERE ELSE.NO MATTER HOW GOOD HI S WORDS AND FAIR HIS SPEECHES.IF HE CAN'T READ IT PLAINLY,WITHOUT XXXXXXXXXXXX INTERPRETING WHAT HE SAY S IT SHOULD SAY,OR WHAT IT MEANS,IT IS N OT THE WORD OF GOD.IT IS NOT OF FAITH.IT IS NOT A GOOD WORK.IT IS A WORK OF INIQUITY.

REMEMBER,TOO,THAT THE TIME HAS COME WHEN JUDGEMENT MUST BEGIN WITH THE HOUSE OF GOD,1 PET.4:17.THAT IS YOU AND ME AND EVERYONE IN EVERY CONGREGATION THAT WEARS THE NAME OF CHRIST.

1 THESS.1:7-9,TELLS US HE WILL TAKE VENGEANCE ON THOSE WHO ARE WORKING ACCORDING TO THE METHODS AND TEACHINGS OF MEN,INSTEAD OF IN OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL.

ROM.2:7-11,"GOD I S NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS."AND WE ARE PROMISED THAT IF WE ARE STANDING WITH THE WRONG CROWD WE WILL REAP "TRIBULATION AND ANGUISH."

REV.20:11-13,WE WILL BE JUDGED OUT OF THE THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK.OUR BOOK,THE WORD OF GOD,THE ONLY WORD THAT PRODUCES SAVING FAITH.

GOD KNOWS WHAT YOU CAN,AND CANNOT DO BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES. HE KNOWS HOW FAR YOU ARE TO BLAME FOR THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.HE KNOWS IF WE ARE REALLY MAKING EVERY EFFORT;AND IF A THING IS TRULY IMPOSSIBLE FOR US.OR IF WE ARE PUTTING SOME THING,OR SOME ONE BEFORE THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN OUR LIFE.

HE COMMANDS US TO ASSEMBLE.YES.BUT HE DID NOT GIVE US THE RIGHT AND DUTY TO CONDUCT PUBLIC WORSHIP,TEACHING AND SO ON.IF THERE IS NO FAITHFUL CONGREGATION:THE BRETHREN WILL HAVE TO ANSWER FOR THAT.BUT WE WILL STILL HAVE TO ANSWER,IF WE MAK E OURSELVES A MEMBER OF A CONGREGATION OF THE ENEMI ES OF TH E LORD.

WRITTEN IN CHRISTIAN LOVE,AND SENT OUT WITH MUCH PRAYER.

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