THE WARRIOR

"And I saw heaven opened,and behold a white horse;and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True,and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire,and on his head were many crowns,and he had a name written,that no man knew,but he himself. And he was clothed in a vesture dipped in blood:and his name is called The Word of God" Revelation I9:II,I2,I3.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

Olney,Texas. April 29,I959

Dear Brethren In The Lord:

I suppose that I have visited among you more,met in more congregations know more of you by your first names,and have enjoyed the hospitality of more of you than any man in the brotherhood,so naturally I have always enjoyed sharing all of the good news with you,by letter,news papers,and good old heart to heart talks. We have rejoiced together over many occasions,these last few years. In all of my travels,I will always try to share the good news with all of you,as time permits. Today,I want you to share something else with me. You know,all of the news is not always joyous. Some times it is discouraging,some times saddening,some times heart breaking. Will you share with me the news of what was once one of our most loyal and faithful congregations? Please read the following article,carefully,then pray.

As ever,your brother in Christ, J.W.Bedingfield.
805 N.Grand. Olney,Texas.

Please turn to page two for Brother J.W.Bedingfield's article.....

"For it is written,As I live saith the Lord,every knee shall bow to me,and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" Romans I4:II,I2.

MAILING ADDRESS.
TO.

"The Church House Is Dark At Nocona,Tonight"

On a beautiful corner lot in west Nocona,stands an attractive white Church house,surrounded by neat evergreen trees,and a spacious lawn. It is Sunday night,but the Church house is dark at Nocona tonight. I remember this little Church with the fondest of memories. Not more than two years ago,I remember meeting there on Sunday nights,with the lights gleaming through the windows,reflecting on the trees,and on dozens of parked cars,all around the building. Oh beautiful scene; a house filled with happy people,worshipping God,kneeling together in prayer,lifting their voices together in joyous song. I remember preaching to upwards of 65 people on Sunday nights in that house,but the Church house is dark at Nocona tonight.

Among the dearest of those memories,is the fine fellowship we enjoyed, when for the night services,we had such fine visiting Brethren as Bro. and Sis.J.O.Taylor,and their family,from Loco and Duncan. Bro.and Sis.E.N.Pollan and their fine group of youngsters from Terral. Bro.and Sis.Lee Joe Pollan and their good children,Yes and Clifford and Patsy Duke.all of Terral. Also Bro.and Sis.Will Daniels of Broken Bow. What precious fellowship,and what spiritual zeal filled the Lord's house,as we worshipped together,but the Church house is dark at Nocona,tonight.

Another Sunday night that will wlways fill my memory,is one night when a fine young man came,heard,and obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember the ride,in the quiet Sunday night,to the little lake near Bro.Teague's house,where by the headlights of a dozen cars, he was buried with his Lord,to rise to walk in newness of life.

But the Church house is dark at Nocona tonight. One thing that always impressed me,in days gone by,was the faithfulmess of all the members to assemble at every opportunity,which led me to write in "It Is Writ ten",commenting on the extraordinary high attendance of the members there,especially those elderly members. Words fail me to express how much I appreciated the attendance to every service,by every one who was able to attend,but that was before you fell for the teaching of a certain man,who persuaded some of you that is was no sin to forsake the assembling of yourselves,(plural) together,and taught you that you could just attend the"assembly of your choice". That you could stay away while the faithful assembled,(keeping a direct command) then later on,at your convienience,you could come,even all by yourself,and fulfil all of your religious obligation,that you could serve Satan and self all day long,so long as you took time out before midnight to drop by and partake of the left overs from the great feast that you had beeh bidden to,but had forsaken,and that all would be well.

How well I remember the words of a faithful and very dear Sister,who clasped my hand,at the close of a meeting and said to me"Brother Bedingfield,I never missed a sermon,and if you stayed two more weeks, I would not miss one." This Sister was well past her three score and ten years,as were several others who did not miss a night. Yes Sister Lawler loved those night services,as did Sister Nelson,Sister Baker, and Sister Garrison,though in very poor health,attended every service possible. Many times she looked so very frail and weak,that I fear -ed for her safety,as she made such great effort to come to church, yet when I saw what great happiness that it brought to her and to others as she clasped hands and took her seat with the ones who loved her,and whom she loved so well,those fears turned to joy.(See page 3)

What joy to see Sister Baker and Sister Garrison,though both past 80 sitting close together,holding hands like fond little sisters,but the Church house is dark at Nocona tonight. I remember also,those faithful Christian women,who attended every service,bringing husbands,who had not yet obeyed the Gospel,that they might be taught the way,and that prayers might rise upward in their behalf. I know how earnestly they prayed that the Word might be preached often enough,and earnestly enough,that those loved ones might obey the truth,and thanks be to God,some of them did so. Others soon would have,only the Church hou -se is dark at Nocona,tonight. It was not dark on Sunday nights two years ago,but was brightly lighted,without and within,holding forth the light of the gospel of Christ,to the lost souls of that com munity. I know also,that the light from that Church reached not only that community,but reached as far as Arkansas and Washington,as that little Church supported faithful gospel preachers in preaching the the Word in regions beyond. Both Bro,Daniels and myself,besides others,have reason to thank them from the bottom of our hearts,as they made it possible for us to go,and lead the lost to Christ from Arkansas to Washington.,from Kansas to Texas,but no such light shines forth from Nocona tonight. I remember,also,the fine young folk s,the teenagers,who were numbered amoung the fine Sunday night crouds we used to have there. How happy you parents were to have those good boys and girls by your side,learning a better way of life,learning to serve the Master faithfully,learning to pray earnestly and faithfully learning to sing joyously and reverently. The Church house is dark at Nocona tonight,but the picture show is brightly lighted. The Church house is silent tonight,but the jukeboxes blare loudly. The theaters are doing a booming business,and the night spots and honky tonks that cater to the young trade are staying open later and later, because the jukeboxes and the pinball machines are working over time since you turned out the lights at the Church house.

Oh Yes,I know. a man promised you that if you would change your prac -tice,change your way of worshipping God,add mans ideas,that it would increase your attendance. He PROMISED you that if you would violate GOD's law,and install HIS law,instead,that you would have great crouds, and that you would be very popular with the world,and grow in numbers You listened to his seducing contention,until at last,despite the war nings of Christ and the apostles,and despite the pleas and the prayers of the faithful,you allowed yourselves to beguiled by a vain deceiver. While angels and saints wept,you turned out the lights at Nocona,so tonight the Lord's house is dark and lonely. Oh Yes, I know,he TOLD you that by substituting his way,for God's way,and by disobeying a command and a example,that all would be much better with you.

He thought that by driving away,everyone who opposed his innovation that great crouds would come and help him boast over his victory(?) over those who humbly pleaded for the old path,the good way,the Bible way. But the crouds did not come. Instead they stayed away, sick with shame,and heart broken over another shameful and heart rendir dividion in the body of Christ. They stayed away,until there is no longer enough of you to have services,so the Lord's house is dark at Nocona tonight. Whereas you were worshiping as the Bible directed you,your light shined brightly,and many came from far away,to enjoy those spiritual blessings with you,and to share in the sweet fellow ship,and holy communion with you,but now your doors are closed to us,because the man who persuaded you to turn out your light,has decl ared that all of us who refuse to bow down to his idol,are QUOTE "UNSCRIPTURAL,UNCHRISTIAN and SINFUL" end quote. So------The Church house remains dark on Sunday night at Nocona. (See page 4)

Those lights could be turned back on! God could be worshiped,Christ could be served,souls could be saved,mistakes could be corrected, Offences could be forgiven! THINK, READ, PRAY. Of course, damage,once done,cannot be un-done. Some have been driven away who will never return. Some have been disallusioned,and disappointed, yes and disgusted,until the name "Church of Christ" is a word of deris ion to them,and they can never have confidence again in a people who claim to speak where the Bible speaks,and then demand that their members either commit sin,or "get out" . Yet the Church house does not have to remain dark. The error does NOT have to go on and on. Your failure does NOT have to be repeated week after week. Arise,and Christ will give thee light. Awake,faith will give you the victory. Seek,and ye shall find. Knock,and it will be opened to you. Ask,and ye shall receive,and the Church house will not be dark at Nocona.
Submitted humbly and prayerfully,by your Brother in Christ,
J.W.Bedingfield., 805 N. Grand. Olney,Texas.

An artiwle by Bro.R.C.Clements., Asking a series of questions.

"Will some one please give me the chapter and verse for the follow-ing questions, So I can find the answers to my questions...
No.I. Does the N.T. tell us anything about instrumental music in the Church of Christ, If so,please tell where.
No.2. Where does the N.T. tell us about the Sunday School?
No.3. Where does the N.T. tell us for the women to teach and preach?
No.4. Where in the N.T. does it authorize individual cups in the communion? No.5. Where in the N.T. does it tell the one waiting on the Lord's table to break the bread and eat first,second or last?
No.6. Where in the N.T. does it tell us that the drink element must be fermented or unfermented? No.7. Where in the N.T. does it command all the members to break the bread before they eat of it?
No.8. Where in the N.T. does it tell us that the cup must be a coffee cup,and must have a handle on it? No.9. Where in the N.T. does it tell us what the cup Christ used was made of?
No.IO. Where in the N.T. does it tell us that Christ ate and drank, when he instituted his supper? Now Brethren I havent done this to wound any ones feelings,these things is causing confusion in the church everywhere that I can hear of ,and the thing for us to do is when such starts in the church,is stop it right there,and then call for the scripture that teaches such. So I will close,hoping that all the Churches of Christ will be on their guard and stop such right in its infancy,and that will save division in the church of Christ.
Written in love of the truth and the Church.
R.C.Clements., Box 73I. Broken Bow,Okla.
Friends,just give us chapter and verse,is all you need do,we can read for ourselves.
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Brethren: Let us search the scriptures,learn the truth and hold fast to the same. Let us take strife,hobbies and inventions out of the Lord's Church. Let us have peace,love and unity among Brethren.
The Editor.
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