



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside church of Christ Welcomes You!

July 13, 2014

“What Makes A Church Sound?” Part One

Bryan Garlock

Sound words formulate sound doctrine. Sound doctrine builds sound churches. What is the measure of a sound church? It is not its size. It is not its location or its building. It is not the absence of mechanical instruments from its worship, or merely the rejection of subsidizing organizations foreign to scripture. It is easy to suggest what a sound church is NOT, but understanding what constitutes a sound church begs investigation.

The scriptures teach “good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2.10). For the local church to be pleasing to God, she must work and worship according to truth (John 17.17). This would mean her works and worship must be patterned after what God has revealed. The apostle Paul penned, “Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us” (Phil. 3.17). Paul further affirmed that the things he writes are the commandments of the Lord (1 Cor. 14.37). It is vital that we grasp the reality that the pattern of church work and worship are the teachings of Christ and ought to be observed (cf. Matt. 28.20). We walk in good works, mentioned above, by “hold[ing] fast the pattern of sound words” (2 Tim. 1.13). If a church is diligently studying and observing these sound words, they can truly say they are a 1st century church in the 21st century.

A church that follows such “sound words,” will not allow perverted words. The church is the only institution authorized to proclaim the Word of God (1 Tim. 3.15). We see this illustrated in the proclamation of the Word from the mouthpiece of the Thessalonians (cf. 1 Thess. 1.8). Yet in Galatia, there were some who were seeking to pervert the gospel of Christ (Gal. 1.6-9). The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1.16). *Continued on back...*

Northside
church Of Christ

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"He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Mark 16.16

We will be starting a teen Bible study soon.

All parents with teenagers are encouraged to meet with Bryan Garlock on Sunday July 20th after evening services. We will discuss scheduling the studies and topics that would be appropriate and centered around the needs of your teen.

Once perverted with additions or subtractions, it no longer saves and any church that accepts such is not a church that holds fast the pattern of sound words. Furthermore, the church that receives such teachings is in opposition to God and as the apostle recorded, "hath not God" (2 John 9-11). Once a teacher has been tested (1 John 4.1; Acts 17.11) and his teachings found wanting, we are not to receive, "but rather expose them" (Eph. 5.11). A church that stands for truth is a church that belongs to Christ.

Jesus spoke of a time when true worshippers would worship "in spirit and truth" (John 4.23-24). We look to the New Testament for how our worship is to be conducted. Luke recorded that the church at Jerusalem "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching [preaching] and the fellowship [giving], to the breaking of bread [Lord's Supper] and the prayers" (Acts 2.42). To the church at Ephesus and Colossae, the Holy Spirit instructed singing also. The assembly on the Lord's Day therefore, must be patterned after these five acts of worship. A church that belongs to Christ is a church full of true worshippers, worshipping in spirit and truth. BG

Continued next week...

Welcome To Northside!

There are three essential things you need to know about the church of Christ that meets here in Hillsboro. We are a Bible believing church, a Bible preaching church and a Bible practicing church. If you are searching for the truth, Northside is a local family and members of the "church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth" *1 Timothy 3.15.*

