**Not Being Ashamed of the Gospel**

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**Paul states in Romans 1:16 “ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” KJV**

**One of the greatest needs in the Lord’s Church today is not being ashamed of the Gospel.**

**In the middle of the twentieth century the church was experiencing enormous growth.**

**WHY? Because as Christians we knew who we were, what we believed, and what we were about.**

**We were pleased to be distinctive people with a distinctive message.**

**We believed that we were the one true church of the Bible and were not ashamed to say so. We would back up our claim with scripture and defend the truth even if it meant a debate.**

**We were faithful in attending both Bible study as well as the Worship hour, not just worship.**

**Gospel meetings were conducted for a week to two weeks in length, and sometimes Gospel meetings were held in the form of a tent meeting that might go on for weeks.**

**Members of the church would conduct home Bible studies as well as participate in area wide campaigns.**

**Radio and TV programs were supported on a regular basis**

**Area wide training for services was held throughout the country.**

**We resolved conflicts on “What does the Bible say.”**

**One of the great messages that were prominent was “Let us go back to the Bible and speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent. Let us call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in the Bible way.**

**Let us be just Christians just like they were in the first century Church.**

**DEPARTURES FROM THE FAITH:**

**From as far back as we can go there were those who tried to water down the truth.**

**Items watered down were:**

**Baptism to sprinkling to babies be baptized**

**Baptism not essential**

**Musical instruments brought into the Church**

**The Christian Church formed**

**Denial of the virgin birth of Christ**

**Moses and Aaron were ignorant of what God wanted them to do**

**There was no divinity plan of Salvation given**

**In 1906 the “progressive churches,” split from the church and carried with it many members of the Lord’s body. Also taken in this were many buildings where Christians were worshiping, forcing them to seek other places to worship such as homes, schools, funeral homes, etc.**

**Late twentieth century there were preachers in the brotherhood that taught:**

**The Church is “One, Big, Sick, denomination.”**

**That there are Christians in all denominations**

**The Church of today is not the church of the first century**

**The thief on the cross is an example of baptism-less conversion**

**Drama groups for worship services (youth)**

**WHY IS THIS? HOW HAVE WE COME THIS FAR? WHAT HAS HAPPENED?**

**In some congregations of the Lord’s church young people as well as new adult Christians are not hearing sermons on the principles on why we do not use instrumental instruments and why we partake of the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week. That the first day of the week is Sunday, not Monday. The plan of salvation is being taught less and less and more motivational and scripture less sermons are being preached**

**Because of all of this we have become:**

**Ignorant of the past as to what has happened in the church**

**We are no longer students of the Bible like we once were. Many congregations do not even offer an invitation on midweek services. The Bible is not read and scriptures are used less and less in sermons.**

**Many Christians no longer understand the difference of the Lord’s Church and denominations**

**We don’t want to be viewed as odd or different**

**Because of these many factors, many Christians have lost their zeal to preach the Gospel and share it with others.**

**Where do you stand?**

**HERE ARE SOME SCRIPTURES ON TOPICS FOR OUR LEARNING:**

**Revelation 22:18-19; page 1447 Matthew 15:8-9; page 1105 Romans 15:4; page 1301 Hebrews 7:12; page 1393**

**Hebrews 9:15-17 page 1394**

**Singing: Colossians 3:16; page 1360 Ephesians 5:19; page 1348**

**I Corinthians 14:26 page 1318**

**Instruments: Only used in the OT II John 9; Page 1425**

**Revelation 22:18-19 page 1447**

**Women Not To Lead In Services: I Timothy 2:12; page 1374 Ephesians 5:24; Page 1349 I Corinthians 14:34 page 1318**

**Speak: I Thessalonians 2: 4; page 1363 I Peter 4:11 page 1412**

**When Do We Meet: Acts 20:7; page 1271**

**I Corinthians 16:2 page 1320**

**Lords Supper: I Corinthians 11: 20-30; page 1315**

**Giving: I Corinthians 16: 1-2 page 1320**

**Prayer: Acts 2:42 page 1249**