

THE TIME IS HERE WHEN MANY WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE

It is a tragedy and shame when those who profess to be members of the Lord's church know more about what is physically healthy for them than what is spiritually healthy for them. The Holy Spirit knew that apostasy would occur among brethren, and so He warned, *"For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables"* (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

On December 12, 2006, The Christian Chronicle reported that "the Richland Hills church in Texas -the largest of the nation's 13,000 a cappella Churches of Christ - has decided to add an instrumental worship assembly with communion on Saturday nights." Let me now set before you some other quotes from the article, and then I will make my comments regarding this blatant abandonment of the Word of God.

Jon Jones, an elder... told the congregation Dec. 3 that Richland Hills' elders "fully and completely endorsed the decision." Elder Roger Dean characterized the congregation's overall response as "extremely positive." "Frankly, we did not know what to expect... we felt like it was going to be pretty difficult, but it has not been... People are truly supporting the leadership and the eldership."

Rick Atchley... said it will allow the congregation to "reach more people who need Christ. We didn't make this decision on a Tuesday and announce it on a Sunday... This has been part of about a three-year journey that the leadership has been on."

Atchley told Richland Hills members that "there has never been a moment's discussion of changing the name of this church or our affiliation with Churches of Christ." But he (Atchley) said Richland Hills must put the kingdom of God and Christ's mission above concerns that the change might hurt the congregation's standing or influence among Churches of Christ.

At the same time, he (Atchley) suggested to members that Richland Hills' decision might "inspire many other Churches of Christ to be courageous in their kingdom efforts, and it could help stem the tide of gifted young leaders who are leaving."

Atchley said, "I know this: If our fellowship stays on the course we're on, our future looks bleak. Someone has got to be a leader." "I greatly appreciate a cappella praise," Atchley told Richland Hills members.

"There is no intention of this leadership to force anyone to worship any other way if that is their choice...But I firmly believe that if Richland Hills is to be most faithful to God's word and Christ's mission, we must become a both/and church with regard to instrumental and a cappella praise."

First, it is stated that the elders "fully and completely endorse the decision" - as if that makes the decision **right**. The Bible warns against following a multitude to do evil (Exo. 23:2). Elders that "sin" are to be reprov'd before the congregation (1 Tim. 5:20).

Second, the congregation's response is said to be "extremely positive." Roger Dean, an elder, said, "People are truly supporting the leadership and the eldership." He probably told the truth without intending to - does the leadership of the congregation consist of one Rick Atchley? The Bible teaches that the elders are the leaders of scriptural congregations (Heb. 13:17).

Third, Atchley boasts that they will now be able to "reach more people who need Christ." One does not reach people for Christ by teaching a perverted gospel (Gal. 1:6-9)! The "three-year journey" the leadership embarked on before making this decision may have been consumed with wishful prayer and futile fasting, but the time would have been better used in **rightly dividing** the Word of God!

Fourth, why not change the name if you are determined to change the worship? Clinging to the right name while rejecting scriptural worship will not save one's soul.

Fifth, has Atchley discovered something new about the "kingdom of God and Christ's mission?" I think not! What he

found is the instrument that cannot be found in New Testament worship.

Sixth, Atchley (and others) are determined to "inspire" other churches to do as they are doing so that we might "stem the tide of gifted young leaders who are leaving." It is folly to abandon God's plan for worship in an attempt to placate young people who are determined to worship as they please! Nadab and Abihu were two young priests who chose to abandon **authorized** fire for **unauthorized** or "*strange*" fire that God did not command, and God killed them (Lev. 10:1-2). The lesson is clear that God does not take lightly those who abandon His way for their way. May we strive to **inspire** all people to obey God's plan for salvation and worship while rejecting the inventions and wishes of men!

Seventh, Atchley boasts that for Richland Hills to be "most faithful to God's word and Christ's mission" they must "become a both/and church with regard to instrumental and a cappella praise." Either the Bible authorizes instrumental music in worship or it doesn't. We are commanded to "sing" (Matt. 26:30; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; James 5:13). There is no authority from God to "make music" as we please. Atchley wants it both ways - a cappella and instrumental - so they can **appease** the most people!

What is tragic is that the pied piper (Atchley) plays **his** tune and most of the members are content to travel with him the "broad" way that leads to destruction (Matt. 7:13). And, the audacity to provide worship and communion on Saturday night (the Lord's Day is not Saturday)! Yes, people do *"heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth and turn aside unto fables"* (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

Jon Jones says that Atchley "never steps outside the authority of the Scriptures." If this is true, then **where** do the Scriptures authorize instrumental music and Saturday communion?

Marvin L. Weir from *Sapulpa Bulletin*

BIRTHDAYS

John Carter, 02-07; John James, 02-10.

ILL

Sunday: Janice Carter (PM), Sarah Marcum (PM).

Wednesday: Janice Carter, Gary Cole, Sarah Marcum.

Millie Robertson was taken to Shawnee Mission Medical Center on Thursday and released Friday. Bob Adams is at Shawnee Mission Medical Center for treatment.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these, as well as: Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Jeremy Keifer was away last weekend. Robin Brown was working out of town last week. Several of our number were absent due to inclement weather on Wednesday.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, February 4, following our AM worship. Plan to come and enjoy the good food and good company.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be next Sunday following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend this meeting.

INDIA MISSIONS

Jim O'Connor and John Shafer will return from India and Singapore on February 14. There is a report from John Shafer on the bulletin board in the foyer.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 53; Sunday PM, 39; Wednesday PM, 26.

Those To Serve

February 4, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson

OPENING PRAYER John Carter

PRESIDE..... Gary Cole

ASSIST..... David Adams

ASSIST..... David Parish

CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson

CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeremy Keifer

LORD'S SUPPER..... Gary Cole

WEDNESDAY 7th

SONG LEADER..... Jared Nelson

INVITATION Jeremy Keifer

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp