

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

Church of Christ
371 W. Main Street
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317)888-8288

www.churchofchristatgreenwood.org

VOLUME 7 NO. 20

July 18, 2010

The Church For Everybody

By Sewell Hall

I agreed to go with a group of Christian friends to a Braves game.

This was going to be different. The field was covered with performing high school bands -- an appeal to all who like music. And that was only the beginning. For those preferring opera, a Metropolitan Opera star sang the national anthem. For those more political in taste, the Attorney General of the U.S. led the pledge to the flag. Lovers of money were tantalized by a \$500 door prize. Cartoon fans were entertained by a million dollar scoreboard featuring cartoon characters. Those living on the level of the flesh were treated to the sight of a young lady in short shorts running around the diamond sweeping off the bases between every inning. And to climax it all, there was a huge fire-works display. I don't remember what team the Braves were playing, much less who won, but that was a game I shall never forget. That was baseball for people who don't like baseball!

Far too many churches are trying to remodel the religion of Jesus Christ to make it a religion for people who don't like religion! For those desiring recreation, they offer recreation. For those desiring entertainment, there is entertainment. For those whose primary interest is secular education, they offer day care, kindergartens, schools and colleges. For those whose appetite is for food, they build church kitchens and dining rooms. The attempt is to be "the church for everybody."

Such carnal, temporal appeals were never authorized by the Lord. He intended that the church be a "called out", separated body of people. If the gospel is the only appeal, it will make the separation. In Corinth, where the wisdom of men was valued, Paul "determined not

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to know anything...except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" 1 Cor. 2:2. In a city where oratory was highly esteemed, he refused even to dress up the gospel with "excellence of speech" 1 Cor. 2:1. His purpose was to see that the materials he built into the temple were "gold, hay and straw" 1 Cor. 3:12.

No, the Lord's church is not for everybody -- just for those who have those qualities which set them apart as God's elect and chosen ones.

Tater People

A Selected Thought

Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work. - They are called **Spectators.**

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work. They are called **Commentators.**

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands. They are called **Dictators.**

Some people are always looking to cause problems. It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet. They are called **Agitators.**

There are those who say they will help, but just never get around to actually doing the promised help. They are called **Hesitators.**

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not. They are called **Imitators.**

Then there are those who love others and are always prepared to stop and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others. They are called **Sweet Taters.**

What Makes A Pattern In Christianity?

By B.G. Hope

The sum total of what God has said about anything becomes the pattern for it. Examine the following statements. Are they true or false?

1. All that God has said about the plan of salvation is a pattern for salvation to every person.
2. All that God has said about the New Testament church is a pattern by which it is identified.
3. All that God has said about becoming a member of the Lord's church is a pattern for everyone.
4. All that God has said about the acts of worship is a pattern.
5. All that God has said about the day to observe the Lord's Supper is a pattern for Christians.
6. All that God has said about the church and the support of preaching is a pattern to observe.
7. All that God has said about the church and helping the needy is a pattern for Christians today.
8. All that God has said about following Christ in Spirit, etc., is a pattern for us.

I count it safe to follow the information we have in the Bible. I commend what it says to everyone. James said, "***For whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offence in one point, he is guilty of all.***" (Jas. 2:10).

Working for the Devil

Via "Gospel Minutes"

A mill manufacturing war goods back during WWII put the following sign over the gate: "**When you lay out, you are working for Hitler.**" No one could have successfully denied this.

Applying this principle to the church the sign might be made to read: "**When you stay away from the meetings of the church, you are working for the devil.**"

Do you remember Matt. 12:30 which says: "***He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.***"?

The devil has some workers among God's children! You may not believe this is true, but with a little serious thinking you will. Let

all cease working for Satan and labor diligently in the services of the Lord. We will be looking for you at all three meetings of the church during this week. Will you be present?