**“Going to Church”**

**Part III**

*Ok, tonight has arrived… thanks for coming back for more.*

*So, let’s get back on the trail of ‘Going to Church.”*

Now that I have introduced the subject of ‘church going’, and followed that a few more introductory comments in part II, let’s get into more detail in part III – or should we?

Since I posted this ‘subject’, I have been asked some very ‘good’ questions about what the Scriptures say about ‘church going.’ My question to deal with in part III is, *“Should I take on each and every scriptural point or should I just generalize with my opinion?”* Well, while it seems that most folks these days just tend to follow their own opinion, educated or not – and while some folks tend to answer questions with their own questions in return, my response, naturally, is, “*What do the scriptures say about ‘not’ attending a church when the truth isn’t being preached/taught/sung, etc.?*

We know what the Scriptures say about attending church – but… let’s ask that ‘other’ question and that is where I think our answer will be found.

Is this a conundrum? No, not really. As most of you know, these days in my second website, I tend to go the simplistic route – a route that many of us would agree (I think) would be the best way to go these days. Most of us have seen over the years that folks don’t really care what the Scriptures say anyway.

Listen, I have sat down with many of the KJB high on the ladder guys and showed them the scriptures IN THEIR OWN KJB about following Paul ONLY. I had 5 basic responses:

1) One agreed with me but said his folks couldn’t handle the ‘change’ (in other words, he knew his church wouldn’t last) and so he dropped it. He had even come to the same conclusion as I had, with his brother, at the same time I was digging into it for myself. In fact, he said this to me during his own bible conference that he invited me to present this very subject of Paul Only!

2) I have received flat out disagreement with their only response being, “That isn’t what I was taught!” (meaning he was taught what another man thought – and he realized that he had no scriptural response);

3) There was this missionary who agreed with me during our ‘talks’ but ran out in the middle of the night to go crying to his ‘guru’ teacher that I was teaching false teachings – but never had the guns or ability to even try to correct me;

4) Then there is this ‘famous’ evangelist who told me to keep my money if I wasn’t going to continue to teach the Great Commission, and did that dastardly baptistic power-move - broke fellowship, etc. from me - hoping that would shake me up – it didn’t!

5) Then I had this ‘big-time’ missionary agree with me whole-heartedly, so he said at the time, anyway, and yet he went back and ‘reported’ me to his ‘guru’ (same guru as before) who then ‘trashed’ in his worldwide newsletter with every nasty word he could think of – from false teacher to pedophile! I took up most of his newsletter, in fact. Oh, the reason that missionary said all that to his ‘guru’ was – in his own words – “*I had to because I needed his support to get to my country!”*

So… below are listed a few of the scriptural designs and reasons for the importance of church going. No doubt, going to a local church is important – and if one were to desire to attend a local church, then there were certain design guidelines we were to follow.

And honestly folks, I do believe there was a time we could find a local assembly that may have come close to these descriptions – although not as many as I once thought.

I. For example, Paul, in **I Timothy 3** talks about the qualifications of a bishop. Ok, someone who would want to be a bishop desireth a good thing. Been there, done that. And yes, it can be a good thing. I learned a lot, for sure.

*(Actually, that is when I realized that we are to follow the gospel of the risen Saviour through Paul – ONLY! I was given an opportunity to preach and teach the KJB, so I studied more intently than ever! I started asking myself questions ‘during my sermons’ – and even found the answers ‘during my sermons.’ That was when I figured I had better look into this – so I read my KJB from cover to cover without any baptistic or other bookstore influence, etc. Simplistic obvious common sense prevailed!)*

We call bishops ‘pastors’ today, as did Paul, and as part of our mixed-up thinking, we expected them to be miraculously ‘*called of God’* based on their scholarship and knowledge over and above their congregation and because of their knowledge of various languages so they can intelligently correct the bible ‘as they determine and as needed.’

*(And don’t kid yourself, the Bible believing Baptists are just as guilty as they ‘follow’ their gurus who claim to have that same sort of Godly inspiration, advanced revelation and have an ability to read and interpret the scriptures better than you or I! They were just ‘men pleasers’ as much as anyone else is today.)*

**So, let’s check out these qualifications for ‘bishops’ / pastors.**

* He must be blameless.
  + In this day age, there certainly a lot of blamers out there, too.
* He must be the husband of one wife.
  + One wife – contrary to most ‘pastoral teachings’, a divorced pastor can still get back to the pulpit. She isn’t his ‘second’ wife! He is not forever doomed to never serve God again. Read up on it and read slowly this time.
  + That does leave out the woman preacher, but then we have those women preachers who are ‘married’ to another woman. NOT HER, either! Sick stuff these days.
* He must be vigilant.
* He must be sober.
  + Read up on the word ‘sober’ – not just meaning nondrinker. This is serious business and it must be taken seriously – not like just ‘one of the gang’ or be involved in a popularity contest, etc. Only when one reads Paul does one realize just how serious this ‘false gospel’ of the Great Commission is. It affects salvation! It affects the KJB vs the other ‘modern bible’s and those modern bible’s have doctrinal changes that truly affect one’s eternal life as well as one’s earthly manner of life. That is a sobering truth! This ‘happy’ and ‘prosperous’ gospel lifestyle to try to get others to be ‘like you’ is baloney to the eternal max!
* He must be of good behavior.
* He must be given to hospitality.
* He must be apt to teach.
  + Preach while he teaches and teaches while he preaches. Ephesians 4
* He must be not given to wine.
  + Right – that is a hard man to find these days. Lots of ‘social drinking’ with the brethren going on.
* He must not be a striker.
  + Gotta control that temper, ya know.
* He must not be greedy of filthy lucre.
  + Not be greedy for money, but the people need to keep him from being needy, too!
  + Gotta be careful of loving money – read that warning and the results of such love in I Timothy 6.
* He must be patient.
* He must not be a brawler.
* He must not be covetous.
* He must be one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity.
  + Now this one is a killer – and so far, I have seen few pastors who know how to be the ‘dad’ in the home… and then ya have those preacher’s kids… a tough thing, for sure. Paul’s teachings to a dad are enlightening… if only they could be followed!!!
* He must not be a novice.
  + But you also have to start somewhere… but the older the better.
* He must have a good report of them which are without.
  + That is a tough call, too. That is a hard balance to maintain.
  + Remember, in the Scriptures, grace always comes before truth. It seems that most bible people claim to have the truth but have little grace – and then you have the ecumenical crowd who have grace but no truth! Grace and truth work together but they do have an order!

Nobody said it would be easy to be a bishop / pastor. But we also have to remember, they are offered the same grace as we are. However, some of those points are extremely important to maintain the truth as they are to preach the word, etc. Sound doctrine today is not a popular thing. I do believe that is where the ‘experienced’ older pastor guy has a heads up on things more than that novice who wants to go out and ‘let em have it.’ As a younger pastor, I can say I have been there, done that… and now, being an older guy, I now say I am ‘being there’ and simply trying to still do those things as a bishop / pastor – even if it is just online this time around.

If we keep reading about the ‘qualifications’ of a bishop in Timothy, we also read about deacons. If we need deacons, that must mean we need a local church with a pastor so we could have deacons. Yes, that would be true.

So, if you are or want to be a deacon, there ya go. Two ‘*by-the-ways’*, though, be sure to have your wife read these as well – and 2) you actually will not find any ‘job description’ for the duties of a deacon – anywhere!

II. Then we have the scriptural reasons for attending a church from a guy I call Cloudy Dave. He has an ‘encyclopedia’ of Baptist teachings – I would describe his book as the Book On Baptistic Law. If you want to live the life of the Jewish gospel expecting blessings from God by following the letter of the law, here ya go.

I will say that in some ways, it contains excellent teachings on cults, etc. and some other factual things – but his mixing of the Great Commission and Paul’s verses – are as baffling to his readers as much as Adam had to be baffled on Mother’s Day!

As I read through his ‘teachings’ on joining a Bible Believing church, I see verses taken from Matthew right on through to Jude. That doesn’t work for Paul Only – that doesn’t work for today’s dispensation of God’s grace and so those don’t work for me. His encyclopedia is one of the many books I threw out when I tossed most my library after I decided to go Paul Only!

Yet, maybe someday, I will go through his ‘*teachings on church-going’* point by point for those who really want to know the details of what is wrong with much of his teachings about *‘church going’*. But not now – I honestly don’t think too many people would be interested and if they would be interested, they wouldn’t like my presentation, anyway. So, probably just be a waste of time – at least for now, anyway.

And besides, my whole purpose over these years is to get people to learn how to do their own studies based on Paul Only! Then they can get mad at themselves, not me! 😊

III. So finally, let’s do what is the most important thing concerning ‘church going’ today – let’s see what the Scriptures say about attending a church that does **NOT** teach what Paul says should be taught in a proper local assembly… and assembly worthy of our presence and of benefit to us.

And as always, I talked to much in this part III, so let’s do a Part IV and make this into an even longer series.