

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Worship in the New Testament Church

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When people ask why we don't use musical instruments, or they ask why we take the Lord's Supper every Sunday; when people ask how do we operate autonomously, or ask where we get the directions to do the things we do, we need to show them from Scripture that we have Biblical authority for our practice. We need to tell them, we operate and worship as the New Testament church.

Let's start on Sunday morning, as we're entering the building. There are mothers and fathers shushing young children and ushering them to their classes. There are elderly couples helping each other through the doors determined to find their seat. There are young adults looking for friends to sit with as they enter their classrooms. There are visitors attending, because of invitations given, or recognized need. We assemble together. **Hebrews 10:25**

There is a group of men in the foyer, it looks like a reception line, but it isn't. They greet everyone that comes their way, they look to see if they can help any visitors that happen to grace us with their presence, they give directions, and they attend to physical needs of those of us who gather here. We have deacons. **1 Timothy 3:8 -13**

We find a smaller group of men speaking to each other in a somber tone, they have a grave responsibil-

ity, they must consider the how's, and the why's of our group's spiritual well being. Their guidance in this day and age is essential to our salvation.

We have Elders. **1 Timothy 5:17**

The classes are conducted by dedicated Christian men and woman. They have shouldered this added responsibility to preserve and teach our next generation the belief system that can only be gained from New Testament teaching. We have teachers. **Ephesians 4:11 & 12**

There is someone, setting up the table at the front of the auditorium with grape juice and unleavened bread in preparation for the Lord's supper. There are baskets for the collection of the funds that maintain and support the local New Testament church. We take the Lord's supper and contribute to the church treasury.

1 Corinthians 11:26 & 1 Corinthians 16:2

We have a gentleman going over notes written, considering a week's worth of study, praying the information and knowledge gained will have the desired effect when he begins to speak. His is a serious task; his accountability is to the Lord to preach only the Word. We have preachers. **Ephesians 4:11, Romans 10:14 & 15**

When our classes are concluded, we all gather in the auditorium. The men

of the congregation conduct the public portion of our service. Announcements are made concerning those of us who gather here. We are lead in singing hymns and songs of praise. Public prayers are said. The Lord's Supper is taken. These things are done in a loving and reverent manner. The number and the timing of these things are done in an orderly and timely fashion. We sing and pray. **Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 1:3, 1 Corinthians 14:40**

The sermon or the address that has been prepared is now given for our consideration, for our spiritual development. It is given for us to apply to our everyday lives. We listen and learn. **2 Timothy 4:1 & 2** The invitation is offered to become a child of God by obeying the Gospel, and those needing the prayers of the congregation are invited to come to the front for that purpose. **Revelation 3:20**. Then we usually close our service with more song and prayer **Colossians 3:16, Acts 2:42, Matthew 26:30**.

We are a New Testament church; we are a church of Christ. We need to remember to stand our ground, we need to preach the word and always ask, *what does the Bible have to say on the subject?* We need to follow what God says, encouraging others to do the same.