

# GLAD TIDINGS

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

Vol. XVIII

April 5, 2009

No. 14

## “Being The Church”

Jerry Fite

The Baptist Church in Edna, Texas recently advertised that they were not “going to church”, but they were going to “be the church.” To show this distinction, they canceled their worship services on Sunday, March 22, and the members went into the community to repair and refurbish houses.

No doubt the recipients of these expressions of love appreciated the Baptist Church, and the Baptist Church profited from the promotion as they placed their signs in the front yards of freshly painted houses advertising the Baptist Church as being behind the good works.

“Going to church” is man’s terminology of saints “assembling together” for worship in the New Testament (Hebrews 10:25). Is not the church “being the church”, when it assembles for worship?

By assembling together for worship, the church is being the church by “edifying” one another through singing psalms and declaring God’s word. “What is it then, brethren? When ye come

together, each one hath a psalm, hath a teaching, hath a revelation, hath a tongue, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying” (I Corinthians 14:26). Building one another up through understanding the revelation of God’s mind is to occur when the church assembles.

Assembling together on the first day of the week, the church is being the church as it includes in its worship the partaking of the Lord’s supper. “And upon the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul discoursed with them...” (Acts 20:7). Taking the bread and breaking it, along with taking the cup of the fruit of the vine was done when disciples gathered. The partakers understood the proper meaning: “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord’s death till he come.” (I Corinthians 11:26).

The church coming together to engage in fervent prayer, is the church being the church. When Peter was in prison, “. . . prayer was made earnestly of the church unto God for him.” (Acts 12:6). Peter, when delivered from prison,

came to where “many were gathered together and were praying (Acts 12:12).

According to God’s word, the church is “being the church” when it assembles for worship to exalt God and edify or build up one another. The Baptist Church cannot refute this fact, nor do they really seek to ignore it. They are simply deemphasizing it. They believe that the world, who does not care much for worship services, will be more impressed with benevolent works instead of Sunday worship. The fact they picked the first day of the week to cancel worship services to show their good deeds proves the point.

Cannot the members of the Baptist Church refurbish houses on Saturday and worship on Sunday? The Lord’s church in Edna was being the church on Sunday, March 22 as it gathered together to worship and teach God’s word. The actions of the Baptist Church, and the church of Christ in Edna “being the church” gave the opportunity for God’s people to teach the truth of God’s Word to some interested Baptists.