

The Work Of The Church (II)
History-Missionary Society and Mechanical Music

INTRO.: 1. Lord's church cannot "rattle a chain" back through the centuries to prove its authenticity. Only the NT can identify Lord's church – Lk.8:11; Ep.4:1-16; Hb.10:32-35; Rv.2:4,5, etc.

- a. Acts 2, **establishment** of the church.
 - b. Acts 20:28-31, **apostasy** of the church. (Cf. 2 Th.2; 1 Tim.4; 2 Tim.4, etc.)
 - c. Ep.3:21, **durability** of the church.
2. Attitudes, not mere issues, cause apostasy. Two issues *illustrate* apostate attitudes in 1800s: 1) Missionary society; 2) Mechanical music.

I. Missionary Society

- A. 1831-1832, A. Campbell printed seven articles on "The Cooperation of Churches" in the *Millennial Harbinger*, arguing that . . .
 1. if churches do not cooperate, they can never evangelize the world.
 2. NT provides examples of churches cooperating (2 Co.8, etc.).
 3. NT does not give exact details of **how** churches should cooperate; this puts the matter into the realm of **expediency**.
 4. each member of the church is to preach the word; where the task is too great for an individual, local congregation must take over; where the task is too great for a congregation, many congregations should go together to perform it. [No passage to authorize it. Two fatal assumptions: ¹church universal is a collection of congregations; ²NT assigns church universal a collective function.]
- B. After 1840, feeling the pulse of the brotherhood, Campbell's plans grew bolder. "Our organization and discipline are greatly defective, and essentially inadequate to the present condition and wants of Society." His articles on organization between 1841–1848 began to have their effect.
 1. Oct.23, 1849: 156 delegates met in Cincinnati, "to devise such methods of cooperation, in the great work of converting and sanctifying the world . . . There are some duties of the church which a single congregation cannot, by her unaided strength, discharge" (W. K. Pendleton). Result: ACMS.
 2. They elected Campbell president, along with twenty vice-presidents, a corresponding secretary, a recording secretary, and a treasurer.
 3. They insisted that the independence of the churches be recognized.
 4. Their first work in evangelism sent James T. Barclay and family to Jerusalem, 1850. (The work was very discouraging.)
- C. Many opposed M. Society immediately after its establishment; others who supported it at first began to oppose it in later years
- D. Some charges of Missionary Society supporters against its opponents –
 1. Higbee: all who oppose the society are skeptical and covetous.
 2. Pendleton and Loos: Lipscomb and Rowe were ignorant, prejudiced.
 3. Burnet: opponents wanted to do nothing in the church.
 4. Briney: "Where are their missionaries? What are the fields? What is the work that they have accomplished?" "Do you think that the Lord is better pleased with the people that are doing comparatively little...along these lines, than with those who are sending hundreds and hundreds?" (*Otey-Briney Debate*, 195, 199). [Mt.7:21-23; 23:15; Ro.10:1-3. Real assumption: the end justifies the means.]

- E. Many supporters of MS never understood nature of the church.
1. **Universal:** relationship of individuals in Christ; no organized function.
 - a. Unassembled. No organization for universal collective action.
 - b. Functions only distributively (through individuals).
 2. **Local:** 1 Co.1:2; Rv.1:4,11, etc. [Prepositions *at, in, of*, etc.]
 - a. **Functions collectively**, 1 Tim.5:16. Ac.4:32-37. Requires:
 - (1) Agreement
 - (2) Pooling abilities and/or resources
 - (3) Acceptance of common oversight
 - b. **NT pattern calls for the local church to –**
 - (1) Assemble, Hb.10:25.
 - (2) Have recognized membership, Ac.9:26; 1 Co.14:23; 5:1-6.
 - (3) Make provision for local oversight, Ac.14:23; 1 Pt.5:1-2.
 - (4) Have a treasury, 1 Co.16:1-2.
 - (5) Function as a unit.
 - (a) Assembled; each participates, Ac.12:5; Ep.5:19; 1 Co.16:2.
 - (b) Authorized agent, Ph.1:5; 4:15-16; Ac.6:3.
 - (6) Be distinct from another church, Ro.16:16; Ph.4:15; Rv.2-3.
- F. NT pattern for evangelism –
1. Local church may send preacher – Ac.13:1-3; 1 Co.9:1-16; 1 Th.1:8.
 2. Local church may send funds to preacher – 2 Co.11:8.
 3. Local churches may support preacher – 2 Co.11:8; Ph.4:15-18.
Churches ‘cooperated’ as each independently pursued common goal.

G. The Issue

The Issue Was Not –	The Issue Was –
1. A matter of “how” 2. Should churches preach gospel. 3. Could churches cooperate? 4. Systematic arrangement.	Could churches build and maintain Missionary Societies through which to do their work of evangelism?

- H. Missionary Society reflects upon wisdom of God – Ep.3:10-11, 21;
Ep.4:4-6; Ph.4:15-16; 2 Pt.1:3.

II. Mechanical Music

- A. 1864, W. K. Pendleton admission: best authorities agree that the organ was first introduced after time of Thomas Aquinas (AD 1250). Pendleton personally included them under the category of *expediency*.
- B. McGarvey replied that the whole ground of *expediency* deserved a thorough examination. [Why did he not respond more aggressively?]
1. Expedient (KJV; ASV); profitable (NASB); beneficial (NIV); helpful (ESV; ISV; NKJV, fnt.: *profitable*).
 2. All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.
1 Co.6:12. [10:23]
 3. Expedients must ¹be lawful (1 Co.6:12); ²build up (1 Co.10:23).

CONCL: Jn.4:23-24. 1 Kings 12, Jeroboam