

How to Identify a ...

Continued from Page 3

spiritually and go on to serve God. Unbiblical churches have done much damage to Christians and the cause of Christ. It is in some of those churches, that although faithful in attendance, many still die without ever hearing the saving message that can get them to heaven; or if they are saved, never grow to live the Christian life or serve God the way He desires. Are you faithfully attending a good church?

Not a Good Husband

Continued from Page 1



to see my friends that often. By the way, we're going out again, and going out clubbing tonight. I didn't think you'd mind. So, I should be home before long," she concluded.

"Clubbing? I thought you wanted to spend your life with me, and change your old ways. Why are you going out again? Aren't I enough for you?"

Unfortunately, scenarios like the fictitious story above do happen. More often tales like that exist spiritually in many Christian's lives. People realize they need to be saved, and they get saved. After they have the confi-

dence that they will miss hell, they return or get too close to the old lifestyle they had asked Jesus to save them from.

They promised, when they trusted Christ alone for their salvation, that they would be faithful to their new Lord, but soon they drift away from obeying Him and make excuses for doing so. Reasons for not reading the Bible come between them and the Lord. Explanations for not praying, attending church regularly, or doing anything spiritual are easily offered. Their old nature and ways ruined their life and brought unnecessary suffering, hardship, and sadness. That is one of the reasons they were drawn to salvation; yet they return to their old ways.

Many would shake their head if the above account became a reality for someone they knew; yet they do not see the connection, when they do a similar deed to the Lord they had trusted for salvation, and one they had promised to cherish and obey.

A new life in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17) promises to be one that will be much different than the one we had tried living before salvation. If you are saved, come away from the old ways, and live the new life as God has commanded. You promised to be faithful to Him, and live a life exclusively with and for Him. Isn't He enough for you?



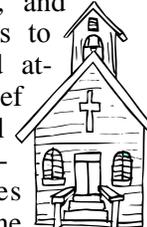
The Bible View

A free publication from: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com Vol.: 253

How to Identify a Good Church

Bill Brinkworth

With all the buildings that call themselves a "church," how can one tell if one is in a good, Biblical church? One should always pray, search the scriptures (II Timothy 2:15), and seek God's will as to where they should attend. Here is a brief checklist that will help you avoid unbiblical churches quickly, and find one that is more in line with what the Bible teaches a good church should be:



- * Is the main ministry of the church preaching that trusting in Christ's finished work for salvation is the only way to heaven? If the church adds anything to salvation, (like good works, sacraments, or baptism) to keep one's salvation, then it is not preaching Biblical salvation, and should not be a church that one who wants to hear the whole teach-

Continued on Page 2

Not a Good Husband

Bill Brinkworth

Years of dating had finally culminated in the marriage of a couple much in love. Immediately after the reception and all the ceremonial customs, the husband longingly awaited the time he and his wife would be off together on their honeymoon.

He was taken by surprise as the bride announced, "You go back to our apartment, and I will see you in awhile. I want to spend some time with some of my old friends that I haven't seen for awhile." Off she went. Sad and bewildered he returned alone to their apartment.

Several days later, she returned to him. "I thought you loved me, and we were going to spend the rest of our lives together. How could you have left me?" he sobbed.

"Oh, you're making a lot of fuss over nothing. Of course, I love you; but we have our whole life to spend together. I don't get

Continued on Page 4



Sign-up for the complete, weekly, e-mail version of [The Bible View](http://TheBibleView.com) at:
www.OpenThouMineEyes.com

How to Identify a ...

Continued from Page 1

ing of the Word of God should attend.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6
Also: *Ephesians 2:8-9*

- * Is there an invitation to be saved at most services? One of the main purposes of a church is to point unsaved people to a saving knowledge of what God says is the only way to heaven.

“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” Acts 5:42 Also: *Proverbs 11:30*

- * Is there proof that the church has a burden that all hear the Word of God? Are there ministries providing people the opportunity? Is there a bus, deaf, blind, youth, singles, Spanish, or similar ministry to reach others? If they have assorted ministries, it shows that someone cares enough for the souls of others to spend their time and money to reach them. Again, that is one of the most important reasons for having a church — to reach

the unsaved.

“And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus’ feet; and he healed them.” Matthew 15:30

- * Are the preacher’s lessons and sermons quoted from the King James Bible? If not, it indicates that the preacher is not really sure which Bible God promised (Isaiah 40:8) to preserve. He may be using a modern, altered bible that has words missing, doctrine changed, or has words added to it. How can one grow in the truth from the Word of God, if he is not reading it or taught its truths?

If the preacher is not even preaching from a Bible and is more interested in preaching his opinion or what is socially or politically correct, he is not doing what God requires a preacher to do. A church should always teach what is in the Bible.

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” Col. 2:8 Also: *Rom. 10:17*

- * Is the preacher a man? If not, then the woman in the pulpit is violating what the scriptures say about women not taking the leadership of a local

church.

“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife (that means he is a man), vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;” I Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:6 Also: *I Cor. 14:34*

- * Is the music glorifying God or appealing to the flesh? If you find yourself or others bebopping to the music’s beat, or find most of the audience gyrating or swaying to the music’s rhythm, then the music is not glorifying God; but is glorifying the feelings and emotions of the flesh. If you listen to the whole song and are not sure if they are singing about their girlfriend or God, it is not glorifying God. Music’s main purpose is to bring honor and glory to God alone. It is the world’s music that stimulates the flesh and has no business in the house of God. We are on the winning side, why would we want the losing side’s music there in God’s house?

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or what so ever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

I Cor. 10:31

Also: *Psalms 9:11. 35:18*

- * When the preacher is finished preaching, did the message edify you? Did the message glorify God? Were you encouraged to serve God better? Were you convicted about your sin or lack of not doing more to serve God? If not, it

could be God is not doing anything in your life. Either you need to be saved, get things right between you and the Lord, or you may not be where God wants you to be. *“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” Mark 1:14-15*

- * Is there a place for you to serve God in the ministry? We are saved to serve, not just to sit and soak up the Word of God. If there are no ministries, and you cannot start one there, you should seek God’s will in a church where you can serve Him.

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13
Also: *II Tim. 2:24-26*

Finding the right church is a very important decision. It is in a good church that many have gotten saved, and it is in a good church that people grow

Continued on Page 4



“The church is not a gallery for the exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones.” — Beecher

“The difference between listening to a radio sermon and going to church, someone has said, is almost like the difference between calling your girl on the telephone and spending an evening with her.” — Moody