



# The Voice of Truth



November 1, 2009

## "Be Ye Separate"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Is it right to attend revivals or meetings held by denominations? Is it right for a member of the church to attend the regular meetings of the denominations? Our appeal should not be to human feelings or thought. We need to go to God's Word to find the answer to these questions (**Jeremiah 10:23, Isaiah 55:8-9**). We **MUST** have the attitude of accepting what **GOD** says in His Word, even if that means we must give up our own ideas.

God has always required His people to be separate. "But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the Lord your God, which have separated you from other people," (**Leviticus 20:24**). God expected His people to be separated from the religious practices of other nations. He forbade them to intermarry, realizing that to intermarry with idolaters would be to take the chance of being led away from the one true God unto false worship (Solomon is good example). If it could happen to them, would it not be possible for it to happen to us?

We can safely say that idol worship would be a false worship and false doctrine. Further, it may be said that God wants His people to have no part with idol worship. But would that not also be true of any other false religious belief or system? Denominationalism is a false system. It teaches and practices error. What is said in the Bible concerning idolatry, and the fact that God's people should have no part in it must also be said of denominationalism.

I hear, "If I attend a denominational meeting with a friend, then they may attend with me and hear the truth." Is this a valid reason? Are they acceptable to God? "And have

*no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."* (**Ephesians 5:11**). Fellowship is not open to everyone without limitations or restriction; the language of conditionality is especially clear in **1 John 1:7**. We are not to participate in, or share in the unfruitful works of darkness. This would include the idea that we are not to encourage, approve, endorse, or support such works, but rather reprove them, expose them (**John 3:20**). "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple," **Romans 16:17-18**. We are commanded to mark them and avoid them that are contrary to the doctrine. We cannot have fellowship with those who walk in darkness. Those who are outside the light of Christ are not my people to have fellowship with!

Another principle we need to recognize is the fact that God never approves of conversions by compromise. Rather than compromising and saying, "If you attend our meeting, we will attend yours," the Bible says, "Contend earnestly for the faith..." (**Jude 3**). Not once in the New Testament do we have any example of any New Testament Christian compromising in such a way with God's approval. You simply cannot compromise and contend at the same time. If someone attends our meeting and obeys the gospel as a result of hearing the Word of God, it is not because you compromised and attended with them so that they would attend with you; but, it is in spite of your compromise. God's word is the power to save a soul (**Romans 1:16; John 8:32; James 1:21**). Compromise has never won a soul to Christ.

Rather than compromise winning non-Christians to Christ, the Holy Spirit says it is the manner of life that the Christian lives (**1 Peter 3:1-2**).

I hope this will stimulate your thinking and study of God's Word. If we want to make heaven our home, we need to think like God thinks and do those things the way God wants! •

### “After The ‘Amen’ Is Said”

By Jarrod Jacobs

I am sure we are familiar with the saying, “They left the building just as soon as the ‘amen’ was said.” This is just an exaggerated way of saying that a person left church services (which is usually concluded with a prayer) as soon as they could without staying and visiting with others.

This little saying, however, got me to thinking about our responses to private and public prayers. Put simply, what do you (I) do after the “amen” is said? In other words, after we have prayed, what do we do next? In order to develop our thoughts, let us begin by dissecting the content of most prayers offered today and then make some applications.

#### The Content Of Our Prayers

**(Editor's Note:** I recognize there are specific prayers for specific occasions. However, I am speaking in broad terms in this article to emphasize a point.) Generally speaking, we find the content of most public and private prayers to be similar. Generally, there is some comment made concerning God and His majesty, love, and mercy, etc. (**Matt. 6:9; Acts 4:24-25; Dan. 9:4**) There are comments made concerning God's love and sacrifice in sending His Son to die on the cross. (**Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8**). Too, most prayers include a petition to heal those who are ill physically (**Jas. 5:15a**). There may also be petitions for those traveling as well as for those ill spiritually. During our prayers, we can pray for the spreading of the gospel in this local area and

abroad (**I Thess. 3:1**). Men also will petition God for His guidance and providential hand (**I Cor. 10:13; II Tim. 4:17-18**). In many prayers, asking God's help for our country and her leaders will be included (**I Tim. 2:1-3**). Again, I am speaking in broad terms, so in addition to these, other points may be included in an individual's prayer. However, this is enough to make our point.

#### These Prayers Are Scriptural.

My mention of prayers in this broad sense is not to be critical. Certainly, such prayers are Scriptural, and in the case of public prayers, brethren are leading the congregation in a prayer to God for which we can all say, “Amen.” However, is this the end of the matter? Do we simply offer prayers to God and then stand back to watch God do whatever it is that He is going to do? Are we put here on earth just to give God our “wish list” like He is some kind of “genie”? What do we do after the “amen” is said? This, my friend, is where the rubber meets the road!

#### Action Is Needed After The “Amen” Is Said!

There is an old saying which goes like this: “Pray as though everything depended upon God. Work as though everything depended upon you.” After the “amen” is said, are we active in our spiritual work? If not, why not? We need to understand that offering prayers for self and others is a valuable thing, but it is only part of our work as Christians.

For example, after we pray for the sick, we need to be active in doing what we can to help the sick in their time of need. Jesus commended folks who were “doers” (**Matt. 7:21-23**)! In connection with this, do we remember Christ's commendation to those who visited (action!) Him when He was “sick” (**Matt. 25:36**)?

Again, after we pray for those who are ill spiritually, what are we doing to then take the opportunity to see to it that they do not die in their sins? Yes, let us pray for their softened heart and for God's longsuffering (II

**Pet. 3:9, 15**), but we ourselves need to be active in trying to win them back! This is the purpose and point of such passages as **Galatians 6:1** and **James 5:19-20**. After the “amen” is said, are we living these passages?

After praying for the spread of the gospel, are we then active in taking the gospel to our friends and family? Are we active in inviting people to our worship services or inviting them to a Bible study in our home (**II Tim. 2:2**)? How about being the person instrumental in getting the preacher and sinner together, as Andrew and Philip did (**Jn. 1:40-42, 45**)? We can also be active in getting Bible material in the hands of those that need it. Parents, our work of teaching does not end with prayers. Rather, we need to be active in making sure our children *know* the truth that we know. God expected such work from parents in the Old Testament (**Deut. 6:7-9**), and expects the same from parents today (**Eph. 6:4; Titus 2:3-5; etc.**). Yes, our work can take many forms, but the point is we need to be *active* after praying!

One passage that best sums up our actions after the “amen” is said is **James 2:14-26**. James reminds us that being a Christian is more than merely saying the words. We must be *active in our deeds*! Often, we look to **James 2** as a passage which shows our denominational friends that we are not saved by “faith only” because faith without works is dead. This is true and ought to be preached from the mountaintops (**v. 17, 20, 24, 26**). At the same time, let us remember that James was not writing a letter to denominational people. He was writing to *Christians*! Christians need to remember that “*faith without works is dead*”! Therefore, while we need to be praying for others, *after* the “amen” is said, let’s get to WORK!! (**I Jn. 3:18**)

### Some Things Only God Can Do.

This study might cause some to reflect on prayer and realize that there are some things only God can do, i.e., forgive us of sins. Yes, when Christians repent and ask God for for-

giveness of sins in prayer, John, by inspiration, has promised, “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (**I Jn. 1:9; See also: Acts 8:22**).

In this situation, some may ask how we can be “active” *after* the “amen” is said when God has promised to forgive Christians *when* we repent and pray? One thing we can do after we have repented and asked God to forgive us, is to then be active in resolving to not fall for those same temptations anymore. The Bible says we must resist the devil (**Jas. 4:7**), and we do this by not yielding to his temptations (**Jas. 1:14-15**). God has made sure we have a way to escape temptation (**I Cor. 10:13**). Therefore, let us be active in looking for this escape! These are the kinds of things we can do after having asked for God’s forgiveness and after the “amen” is said!

Another thing God does is extend mercy and patience to man for another day (**I Pet. 3:9, 15**). Man cannot add days to his life or anything of the sort. What we can do, however, is be active in making the most of the time we have (**Heb. 3:15**)! We can glorify God in our bodies (**I Cor. 6:20**). We can learn “*to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom*” (**Ps. 90:12**). We can take advantage of the day we have and not boast of tomorrow (**Prov. 27:1**), thinking we have more time “in the future.”

### Conclusion

Let us pray to God for our needs and wants, for help for others, and for the well-being of our country, brethren, family, and self. Then, let us be *active* in the work the Lord has given us to do! (**Rev. 22:14; Matt. 7:21; Acts 10:34-35**) Friend, what are you doing after the “amen” is said??

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## "Which Church Should I Attend? "

### One Where His Name Is Glorified

**Acts 4:12** - No other name whereby we might be saved.

**Acts 11:26** - God gave the name Christian  
**1 Peter 4:16** - We can glorify God in this name.

### One Where His Teachings On Salvation Are Followed

**John 14:6** - Only He is the way to heaven.  
**Hebrews 5:9** - All must obey Him to be saved.

**John 8:24** - He said we must believe on Him.

**Luke 13:3** - He said we must repent.  
**Matthew 10:32-33** - He said we must confess Him.

**Mark 16:16** - He said we must be baptized to be saved.

### One Where His Will Is Followed In Worship

**John 4:24** - Worship must be sincere and proper actions.

**Acts 20:7** - Lord's supper on the first day of the week.

**Colossians 3:16** - Singing praises to God.  
**Acts 2:42** - Prayer and teaching.  
**1 Corinthians 16:1-2** - Giving of our means on the first day of the week.

## YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

*"The churches of Christ salute you."* (Romans 16:16) ♦

## Do You Just Belong?

Are you an active member?  
 The kind that would be missed?  
 Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?  
 Do you attend the meeting and mingle with the flock?  
 Or do you stay away to criticize and knock?  
 Do you take an active part to help the work along?  
 Or are you satisfied to only just belong?  
 Think this over, my dear friends:  
 I know you won't go wrong.  
 Are you an active member, or do you just belong? ♦

## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

**Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

**Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

**Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

**Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

**Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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#### Our Address

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#### Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
 Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
 Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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