

Something The Average Member Does Not Know

by Bill Crews

AN OBSERVATION ABOUT THE MANY PHONE CALLS MADE TO CHURCHES FOR HELP:

I have never heard of a church of any kind that would do nothing to help its own members, especially its own active members, when they were in any kind of genuine physical need. Some have the idea that churches should provide much of their money and time to help *anyone* in need. And there are many, many people who have no use for churches when it comes to becoming members, attending services, and actively participating. In fact, they don't want to be bothered by churches. But they have no qualms about contacting any and all churches for groceries or money to pay their bills. If such people would become and function as church members, they would not be perpetually phoning churches and asking for help. (Please do not view this as an endorsement of the doctrines or practices of any church.)

Not a few people make phoning and contacting every perceived charity, especially churches, a way of life, and become in time professional "panhandlers" (Did you know that there have been organizations formed and books written to teach panhandling? A preacher friend showed me a little book published in New York and titled "The Panhandlers Hand-Book."). Every preacher I know who has been at preaching for long could write a book on the fraudulent characters they have encountered, both local and transients. Typically, these people will not settle down, hold on to a job, take care of anything they are given, or manage wisely the money they have. Many of them smoke and drink much of the time; if they have cars, they are nearly always big gas-guzzlers. If they live in the town, they usually have telephones, T.V.s and DVD players. Telling the truth about themselves and their situation is rarely found among these people.

2 Thessalonians 3: 10 says, *"If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."* Psalm 37:25 says, *"I have been young and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his descendants begging bread."* 1 Timothy 5:4 says, *"But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God."* Verse 8 says, *"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."* Verse 16 says, *"If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows (or widows indeed)."*

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