

Searching for a Congregation

by Bill Crews

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succumbed to the teaching that Christ was about to return for the resurrection and the judgment, and were reacting accordingly (no need to continue working or starting any mundane projects – **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3; 3:6, 11**). Even the highly commended church at Philippi had two women who were not getting along (**Philippians 4:2**). And we all know that the church in Corinth had numerous problems: contentions over exalting various men (**1 Corinthians 1:10-12**); being carnal with jealousy and strife (**3:1-4**); the brother who had his father's wife (**5:1ff**); some taking others to civil court (**ch. 6**); abuse of the Lord's supper (**ch. 11**); misusing and misconstruing spiritual gifts (**ch. 12**); denying the resurrection (**ch. 15**); and others. Paul rebuked them for their sins and called upon them to deal with and correct their problems (2 Corinthians indicates that they had taken care of some of them), *but where did he instruct any members to leave the congregation?* When we have pointed out serious problems and used scriptures to identify the problems and to show how to solve them, and the church ignores us or refuses to do what is right, then the matter of leaving can be considered.

Among the seven churches of Asia, five were rebuked for sin among them and commanded to repent (**Revelation 2-3**). The church at Sardis had a name (or a reputation) that said they lived (spiritually), while in truth they were dead, but the Lord also said, *"But thou hast a few names in Sardis that did not defile their garments: and they shall walk with Me in white; for they are worthy"* (**Revelation 3:1, 4**). The Lord did not tell them to leave. Had they left, the church would have been worse off for their leaving. What was needed was rebuke, instruction, forbearance, persistence, good example and love. If nothing happened after the Scriptures were patiently tried, then the matter of leaving could be considered. We should not give up until there is no hope because of hardened impenitence and determined apostasy. If we are in a church that has problems and imperfections that we sincerely view as serious and sinful, let us do our utmost to remedy those problems with the word of the Lord. And let us do it with love, kindness, gentleness and patience, examining ourselves lest we also be tempted (**Galatians 6:1; 2 Corinthians 13:5; James 5:19-20; 1 Timothy 5:19-21**).

Thank You, Brethren!

by Wayne Goff

In a time when many churches are still not meeting regularly, the Roanridge Church of Christ met for a week-long Gospel Meeting! The leadership of this congregation was not sure what to expect, but with faith in God and the belief in the good which gospel preaching does, the elders chose to move forward. The majority of the members here did not disappoint in their work for and support of the meeting. Here are some of the positives that we can see:

- **Saturday Work Day well supported**
- **Gospel Meeting well supported by membership**
- **Hospitality was provided for the Hoglands**
- **Visitors from Blue Springs attended very well**
- **Visitors from the community attended**
- **To our knowledge, nobody came down with Covid-19**
- **Excellent sermons by Brett Hogland, with many viewing via Live Stream as well**

Can we make improvements for our next Gospel Meeting? Absolutely, and suggestions from our members would be very welcome. But to accomplish in Kansas City what many thought could not be done at this time is a feat of faith and conviction. Naturally, all the glory belongs to God and we should not cease to thank Him for the success of this meeting. God's Word has been planted, and it will produce fruit according to God's eternal purpose and plan. But let us not forget to say "Thank You" to all who supported it. 354003