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What is Valley Station Church?

It is a group of Christians determined to be pleasing to God. How do they do this? They do all in their power to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ with no changes, additions, subtractions or alterations.

It is a group of Christians that claim no human denominational affiliation — just Christians working and worshipping together at the Lord's word teaches.

If you need Christ as your Lord and Savior, we believe you will find him among the Christians at Valley Station.

Come and see.

The **VALLEY TIDINGS** is published monthly by the church of Christ, meeting at 1803 Dixie Garden Drive, Valley Station, Kentucky 40272

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Assemblies

Sunday Bible Class 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 P.M.
Ladies Class, Thursday 10:00 A.M.

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Valley Tidings

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Who's Important?

It's probably the hardest lesson a success oriented individual can ever learn. Most of us aren't nearly as important as we think we are — and sometimes as others tell us we are. One of the wonderful things about Christ's religion is that it puts everyone on the same rung of the ladder — Christ is the great equalizer.

There's a story of a newly elected politician who went to our nation's capital to get acquainted with the place. At the home of a high ranking senator he was trying to get the feel of this great city and all he anticipated he would be able to accomplish. He greatly admired the prominence of his host and spoke of his grandiose intentions and plans. Somewhere, back in his mind, he even entertained the possibility of actually running things in the country from the White House.

As they looked out over the Potomac River, they noticed a log floating down stream. It was rotten, old, deteriorating, obviously of no worth. The older senator remarked to his young friend, "You know, that log is about a perfect example of what this city is, and what our nation is becoming."

"How's that?" asked his young friend. "Well you see, there are probably hundreds of grub worms, no telling how many ants, and bugs and critters of about every kind you can name, and they're just floating down the stream on that rotten old log."

"Well, how's that like this city?" the young man wondered aloud. "It's simple," replied the senior senator, "Everyone of those critters thinks he's steering the log."

With no intent to bemean the government, how true it is in almost every area of life that ambition often outruns reality. It is the meek who inherit the earth, not the mighty. It is the poor in spirit who enjoy the rule of God — not the arrogant and haughty. Paul summed all this up for us quite nicely:

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" - Rom. 12:3

While Churches Play Games, America Dies!

David L. Wells

When a Bible-believing preacher gets up and expounds upon the errors of cultism, not much stir is created. Neither is it difficult for a preacher to denounce out-and-out sin: Drunkenness, murder, rape, wife-beating, etc. These things need to be preached against, and certainly they should be preached against, but still there is not much controversy involved. Probably the most difficult area into which a preacher must delve is into the area of wrong-doing within his own ranks, namely, Bible-believing Christianity. When wrong is being done, however, I firmly believe that the wrong needs to be exposed, no matter where it may be found! With this in mind, and with full awareness that we may be called “sour grapes” by some, I shall endeavor to expose what I feel to be the single greatest cause of spiritual downfall and disrespect in our land today.

Why Does Sinfulness Persist?

What is wrong with Bible-believing Christianity today? Why is it true that Christianity is not as effective today as it once was? Why is America falling deeper and deeper into sin, while at the same time many church buildings are getting fuller and fuller of people? Many “decisions” for Christ are being made today, and yet the evidence of a genuinely changed heart is missing. Why?

These are questions which people everywhere are asking, and they deserve answers! It is no secret that there are more people going to church today than ever before in the history of our land. There are more church buildings and religions than ever! Yet at the same time, there is more crime, murder, rape, robbery, etc. than there has ever been before! Statistics will bear this out! What then is the problem? How can religion and general sinfulness be growing big together? More specifically, how can so-called “super churches” be having such great prosperity today, while at the same time sin and open immorality are enjoying a field day!

Is the Medicine Ineffective?

To illustrate this more fully, let us consider this: if someone is terribly ill, he is usually given some type of medicine to help cure the illness. If the medicine is given, yet the patient continues to worsen, we naturally assume that the medicine is not doing its job. We may apply this simple and obvious thought to our present day spiritual situation.

Our nation is terribly ill, spiritually. A great deal of religious medicine is being administered, yet the patient is getting worse and is almost dead. What is the problem? The “medicine” is not working! Bible-believing Christianity is failing, and the so-called “super churches” are putting up a false pretense of success! While the “super churches” try to outdo each other, America is dying spiritually!

Whether we like to face the fact or not, America is in sad shape. She is in a state of spiritual and moral decay. No nation has ever gone as far as our nation has gone without facing defeat and destruction. America is dying! Why? There are many lesser reasons, all of which seem to stem from the one major problem. This one major problem concerns “easy-believism” Christianity as we know it. Instead of giving our land the curative medicine of God’s Word, popular Christianity is giving her balloons and bribes. The people of America are lost and dying and bound for hell. They need Christ! Modern Christianity needs to wake up and face this fact, and it needs to be faced squarely and honestly!

A Shallow Gospel

The “gospel” being served America today is very shallow. Gimmicks and bribes abound, and a carnival-like atmosphere prevails among many churches. It seems that we are doing all we can to get all the world to come into the church, rather than challenging the church to go into all the world! One church recently offered a trip around the world in an attempt to fill its building. We have also heard of an ex-rodeo champ making the church rounds giving rope trick demonstrations and calf-tying

exhibitions. Very recently, a church had an evangelist leap from an airplane and parachute onto the church lot. The evangelist then went into the church and preached on the second coming of Christ. How sad and silly, to cheapen the glorious imminent return of our Lord in a way such as this! This is going on all over, in order to get crowds, and in order to be bigger than some other competitive church! Through all the fun and games, shallow “decisions” are being made, instead of heart-felt changes. Bigness is the standard for success, while our land is going to hell!

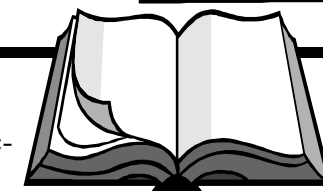
Bigness Is Not Necessarily Success

In the Bible, bigness was never used as a standard for success. In fact, whenever the early church started getting too big, God always sent persecution to scatter her! Yet in today’s artificial world of the “super-aggressive church,” big means success and small means failure! This is anti-Bible, totally unscriptural, and smacks of humanism! Modern pastors have compromised biblical standards in order to achieve bigness, and people are perishing because of it. Hundreds of godly pastors have quit the ministry, miserably broken and defeated, due to the fact that their church did not get super-duper or big or because the manufactured gimmicks did not work! Genuine Christianity does not survive by gimmicks and gadgets, but rather it survives by the power and the sustaining power of God! Our lost America needs to witness and to receive this power!

The modern “super church” of today widely propagates the theory that the bigger the church is, the more spiritual and better it is. We are flooded with notions that if a pastor does not double or triple his attendance each year, he is a failure and is not spiritually right with God. Our current “super church” crowd tells us that every town needs only one big church to meet its needs, and that a town with a bunch of smaller churches is missing the mark spiritually. This type of humanistic thinking and philosophy is not of God! Down through the years, the one device most used by Satan to destroy God’s work has been a gathering together of all churches into one big one. By trying to deceive us into believing that one large church in a town is better than several small ones is nothing short in succeeding in this device. To say that a pastor is a backslidden failure because his attendance is not doubling or tripling over a given time is humanistically judging the plan and the purpose of God’s man and of God. This is wrong! It is this type of propaganda which is sending a lost nation closer to destruction!

We are being told that Christianity is experiencing another Pentecost. Where then, are all the changed lives? Where are all the genuine results? If the “super church” theory is the medicine for the world today, why is the patient closer to death than ever before?

If sinners are “converted” on hamburgers and cokes, they usually must be kept “converted” by hamburgers and cokes.



You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.—1 Peter 2:5