

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Training Class 5:00 P.M.
 Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 February 18, 2018

“Church Just Ain’t What It Used To Be”

by Bryan Gibson

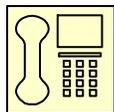
That’s the very comment someone made to me a few years back. She couldn’t believe some of the things done in the assemblies of the church she was attending. She is right, you know—what we find in many churches ain’t what it used to be. I don’t know exactly how far back she was going for her comparison, but I would urge that we go all the way back to the New Testament—to the “beginning” (1 John 2:24). What is done in the assemblies of many churches today hardly resembles what was done by the churches we read about in the New Testament, and that ought to bother us. These churches were taught the commandments of the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:37), so what they did in obedience to the Lord is what we ought to do today. Are we interested in doing it His way, or our own way? That’s what it really boils down to.

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Various passages throughout the New Testament speak of a local church coming together for worship—1 Corinthians 11:17-20; 14:23, 26; Hebrews 10:25—just to name a few. We know they met regularly on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Acts 20:7), and sometimes on other days (Acts 2:46; 19:9). But exactly what did they do when they came together?

Let's understand this point first—a distinction WAS made between what was done “in church” and “at home” (1 Corinthians 11:34; 14:35). So let no one argue that “anything goes” as long as it is done “to the glory of God.”

Let's look first at what they did on a regular basis, in their worship to God. 1) They engaged in the teaching and study of God's word (Acts 2:42; 11:26; 15:30-35, 20:7; Colossians 4:16). 2) They sang psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:11-12). 3) They prayed together (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 14:14-17). 4) They gave money to aid in the Lord's work (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). 5) They ate the Lord's supper (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7). Please observe that two of these activities were limited to the first day of the week—giving, and eating the Lord's supper.

But, they did other things on a less regular basis, as the need called for it. 1) Brethren were informed of needs (Acts 11:27-30). 2) Reports of preaching work were given to the congregation (Acts 14:27; 15:4). 3) Elders were appointed (Acts 14:23). 4) Brethren were commended for their good service (3 John 1:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 1:4); 5) Discipline was administered to unruly members (1 Corinthians 5:1-4). Look

over this list again—it's not hard to see the spiritual nature of all these activities.

Here's the problem. Many churches today have become more concerned with entertaining than edifying, with feeding bellies than feeding souls. Are people's “needs” really different than they were in New Testament times? Someone must take a stand; someone must point people back to the Bible, to the very words of Jesus Christ himself. Maybe, just maybe that someone is YOU!

**Edification or
Entertainment?**

On Improving Worship

I know I can improve when it comes to my public worship of God (in the assembly). I can always be more attentive, more reverent, more thankful, more joyful. I can improve my understanding of God, and therefore my worship of God. What I CANNOT improve is God's plan for worship, a plan which includes not only the specific activities, but the manner in which they should be done. If my worship is lacking, I just need to do a better job of following His plan. I'm pleading with everyone to join me in this same approach, and to stop introducing into worship things for which we have no CLEAR authority from Christ (Colossians 2:8-23; 3:17). It doesn't matter how much good we think they will do—draw us closer together, produce more emotion, etc. God's way is right, it is best, and anything else is an insult to Him.