

# YOKEFELLOW

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## THE CHURCH TREASURY AND BENEVOLENCE

**Bobby Liddell**

### Using The Church Treasury For Benevolence

God has commanded us to be compassionate friends of those in need. Christ, Who perfectly exemplified such care, declared its significance at judgment (Mat. 25:31-46). Some teach that the church CANNOT discharge the responsibility enjoined by Galatians 6:10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith," but contend the individual ONLY may "do good unto all men." Some go so far as to say that any church which helps anyone except those who are saints is hell bound!

In the May 30, 1963, issue of the Guardian their man, Brother A. C. Grider, is affirming this proposition: "The Bible teaches that it is a sin for the church to take money from its treasury to buy food for hungry, destitute children and those who do so will go to hell."<sup>30</sup>

If Galatians 6:10 refers to *individual action only*, the church CANNOT do the following, (and would sin and be Hell bound if it did): (1) Restore a brother overtaken in a fault (Gal. 6:1); (2) Bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2); (3) Fulfill the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2); or, (4) Pay the preacher ("communicate [give] unto him that teacheth" [Gal. 6:6]). The logical conclusions of the "saints only" doctrine demand individuals ONLY are responsible for these actions--including paying the preacher. Every individual Christian would have to obey God's command to pay the preacher, and would be lost if he failed to do so.

Likewise, the church, collectively, could not pay the preacher, but would sin if it attempted to do so. Consequently, if Galatians 6:10 refers to the action of individuals ONLY, the church CANNOT even help the "household of faith." The ones who are to "do good unto all men" are the same ones who are to do good unto "the household of faith." The question arises as to who these "doing good" ones are. Our erring brethren say, "Individuals only!" Paul, by inspiration, wrote this epistle to the "churches of Galatia," which included individuals (cf. 1 Cor. 12:20)--but not to individuals ONLY (Gal. 6:1-2).

The word translated "all men" (Gal. 6:10) means all men, anyone, or everyone. Those who deny the God-given command for the church to help ALL men say "all men" refers to "saints only." If so, the passage should read: "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto

them who are of the household of faith, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Obviously, "all men" must refer to those other than "the household of faith."

Other passages, referring to these two classes of men, have wording very similar to Galatians 6:10. Let us look at some.

**John 12:32.** Jesus died for all men—not for saints only (1 John 2:2; Heb. 2:9)! Otherwise, we must join the Calvinists in the false doctrine of Limited Atonement. Jesus invites all men—not "saints only"—to come to Him (Mat. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17).

(Continued on Page 2)

## MIKE MCDANIEL (1985) TO TEACH CLASSES AT MSOP

Michael McDaniel preached his first sermon when he was fifteen at his home congregation in Dyer, TN and graduated from MSOP at the age of twenty in 1985. He has now been preaching regularly for twenty-six years. He has engaged in local work in Samburg, TN, Dunmor, KY, Greenfield TN, and has served as the evangelist for the Central church of Christ in Caruthersville, MO since August of 1999.

Mike is married to the former Martha Wallace of Hornbeak, TN. They have two children, Ryan (13) and Kayla (10).

Mike was listed in the 1987 edition of Outstanding Young Men Of America. From 1985 until 2003, he served as an occasional panelist for the Searching the Scriptures television program. In conjunction with that program, he co-wrote material for a book entitled: The Fancies and Fallacies of Premillennialism, along with Wayne Cox and Bill Crossno, in 1989.

While at Greenfield, Mike served as the editor of The Sower (a monthly periodical) for nearly eight years. (Continued on Page 2)



MIKE AND MARTHA MCDANIEL

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(McDaniel: Continued From Page 1)

He has had articles published in: The Sower, Spirit of Truth, In Word And In Doctrine, Speak As The Oracles, The Shield of Faith, The Christian Worker, Seek The Old Paths, Fulton County Gospel News, The Informer, Firm Foundation, Power, Pierced, Yokefellow, The Gospel Journal, and other religious periodicals.

Since 1999, he has participated in a cooperative radio program called: "Search For Truth." In 2001, he edited the two volume set: Expositions of the Expositor ~ J. Winfred Clark. Since 2003 (its second year in existence), he has served as an instructor for the Online Academy of Biblical Studies and teaches courses on Hebrews and the New Testament Church.

He co-founded the A Bible Answer television program in 2004 and serves as its moderator. In 2007, he edited a book containing three transcripts of ABA programs with Robert Taylor, Gary Colley, and Garland Elkins entitled, "Instrumental Music In Worship Today?" He is actively involved in the Bootheel Bible Quiz and does the scheduling yearly. He has served as the President of the Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association since 2006. He received the MSOP Alumni Association Alumnae Of The Year Award in 2008. He speaks and writes for several lectureships each year.

We are delighted that brother McDaniel will be using his expertise, in the fields listed above, to help educate preachers at MSOP. He will be teaching on a fill-in basis, especially in the area of homiletics. We know our students will benefit greatly by the instruction he will give, and we look forward to the great contributions he will make. BL

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(Treasury: Continued from Page 1)

**Acts 5:11.** "The church" feared, but "as many as heard" (including those not of the church) also feared.

**2 Corinthians 9:13.** "Unto them" is a reference to the saints (see the context). "Unto all men" obviously refers to someone else--all others NOT saints.

**1 Thessalonians 3:12.** The writer mentions "you" (the brethren at Thessalonica [1:1]), and includes another class, "all men."

**1 Thessalonians 5:15.** "Yourselves" indicates those in the church (saints), and "all men" must be those not saints.

"All men" means ALL men, NOT "saints only," and the church is to do good unto all men.

#### Can the church practice pure religion?

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world" (Jam. 1:27). "Saints only" advocates falsely affirm this refers to the response of individuals only. Individuals must practice pure religion, but this verse does not limit the practice of pure religion to individuals only. Those who bind their laws upon others, by inserting the word "only," are like denominationalists who teach "faith only." They add to the inspired revelation, binding where God has not bound (Rev. 22:18-19). Salvation is by "faith," but not by "faith only" (Jam. 2:24). Likewise, God's Word teaches individuals are to help the fatherless and widows, but does not teach such help must come from "individuals only."

James wrote to the "twelve tribes," spiritual Israel (Gal. 6:16), the church, and addresses "brethren," regulating among other things, by his epistle, activities in the "assembly" (Jam. 1:1-2; 2:1-2). Also, the Greek word for "himself" (Jam 1:27) refers to an individual action which is discharged collectively (cf. Eph. 5:19). If, however, James 1:27 refers to individual action ONLY--if the church CANNOT "visit [with the intent of rendering aid] the fatherless and widows in their affliction," then, it must be true that the church CANNOT: (1) practice pure and undefiled religion; (2) keep itself unspotted from the world; or, (3) help the "fatherless" (thus, those who are not saints). It cannot help "widows" either; for the same verse enjoins rendering aid to both.

The church, individually and collectively, must be concerned about the welfare of "all men," and "do good unto all men." Such benevolence is a work of the church, and enhances and facilitates the God-given task of the church to win souls. Those who teach otherwise err; binding upon men that which God has not bound. John Moore wrote:

Doing unto others is a scriptural principle which must govern the church of Jesus Christ. Going about doing good is a characteristic manifested by Jesus which must also characterize the church. Pure religion necessitates the church being involved in benevolence. Through benevolence, the church lets its light shine, showing the good works and thereby glorifying the Father which is in heaven.<sup>31</sup>

(Continued Next Month, BL)

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### MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING CLASS OF 2009

NOT PICTURED: BRANDYN GRAVES AND JAMES CALDWELL

## CLASSES FOR STUDENTS' WIVES

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### FUTURE PREACHERS AND THEIR FAMILIES NEED YOUR HELP

Brethren, there are men who want to preach, and who are ready to come to MSOP, but they need your help. They realize their need for education and training, and they are willing to leave behind their extended families, jobs, and homes in order to come to MSOP for two years. These men (and their families) have shown themselves willing to make personal sacrifices, because they want to preach the gospel to the whole world, and to teach the lost about the Savior Who gave so much for them, making possible their salvation.

Thankfully, because of the generous contributions of so many, we have (as announced in the March 2009 Yokefellow) paid the debt of \$3,500,000 for student housing, and that has meant that we have greatly reduced the amount of support needed for housing (a reduction of \$1,000 or more for each family, each month). Yet, these good men still need food, clothing, insurance, and the other expenses of living.

**We dare not fail our Lord by refusing to help deserving brethren to prepare themselves to be faithful gospel preachers.** Let us hear from you as soon as possible. Send your support for them to MSOP. Remember, your contributions to MSOP are tax deductible. Thanks! BL