

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

Vol. 30 No. 1

January 2017

George L. Faull, Editor

Hyphenated-Christians?

President Theodore Roosevelt declared: "There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism... When I refer to hyphenated Americans, I do not refer to naturalized Americans, Americans born abroad. But a hyphenated American is not an American at all".

"This is just as true of the man who puts "native" before the hyphen as of the man who puts German or Irish or English or French before the hyphen. Americanism is a matter of the spirit and of the soul. Our allegiance must be purely to the United States. We must unsparingly condemn any man who holds any other allegiance".

"But if he is heartily and singly loyal to this Republic, then no matter where he was born, he is just as good an American as anyone else".

"The one absolutely certain way of bringing this nation to ruin, of preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities, an intricate knot of German-Americans, Irish-Americans, English-Americans, French-Americans, Scandanavian-Americans, or Italian-Americans - each preserving its separate nationality, each at heart feeling more sympathetic with Europeans of that nationality than with the citizens of the American Republic".

"The men who do not become Americans and nothing else are hyphenated Americans; and there ought to be no room for them in this country. The man who calls himself an American citizen and who yet shows by his actions that he is primarily the citizen of a foreign land, plays a thoroughly mischievous part in the life of our body politic. He has no place here; and the sooner he returns to the land to which he feels his real heart-allegiance, the better it will be for every good American".

President Woodrow Wilson put it like this.... "A man who thinks of himself as belonging to a particular national group in America has not yet become an American".

In light of these intelligent statements, one wonders why men still insist on being called hyphenated Americans except for special attention, privileges, and advantages.



Cartoon from Puck, August 9, 1899. Uncle Sam sees hyphenated voters and asks, "Why should I let these freaks cast whole ballots when they are only half Americans?"

Why not apply this principal to what the two Presidents reasoned to hyphenated-Christians.... Baptist-Christians, Nazarene-Christians, Methodist-Christians, Lutheran-Christians, Charismatic-Christians, Pentecostal-Christians, Evangelical-Christians, etc. Is Roosevelt right?

Read Roosevelt again and substitute the hyphenated-Christian for Americans. Or Wilson's claim, "A man who thinks of himself as belonging to a particular Church group in Christendom has not yet become a Christian."

There is no other name that should be united to the name Christian. It is the Lord's chosen name foretold in **Isaiah 62:2**, "**And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.**"

This began in **Acts 11:26** when they were called of God after Gentiles saw His righteousness.

"And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. **And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**" – **Acts 11:26**

It is only that Name for which we should suffer – **1 Peter 4:16**, “Yet if *any man* suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

I think we should refuse to be called a hyphenated-Christian. Being a hyphenated-Christian also causes squabbling and disunity. To intentionally do so does not reflect upon us as being a real Christian or one who is submitting to the High Priestly prayer of Jesus for unity.

John 17:11, “And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, which they may be one, as we are.”

Encouraging Words From a Summit Student

“Brother George Faull – I wanted to say “thank you” and let you know how grateful I am to have had the privilege of attending Summit to be able to sit in a classroom, where true Bible teaching is being taught. I never, for one moment, dreamed of the level and quality that I was going to be taught. All of the professors had a way with these teachings that literally opened up the Scriptures to me. I started learning the Word of God in a much deeper meaningful way. Not only have I come to an understanding of God’s Word, but my walk with the Lord has become so much closer with His Will.

The classes at Summit have equipped me with the education and confidence to speak to anyone anywhere about the Gospel of Christ. Brother Kendall Faull taught me how to evangelize in a way that I didn’t know was possible or to the way that you have opened up the Parables to me. The same way Brother Terry Carter took us verse by verse showing us things in Acts that somehow I overlooked, as we went step by step learning things I never saw before. Brother Shane Capps brought to life the history of Israel. I never knew I was praying wrong all of these years until Brother Jerry Paul showed us the correct way from the Word of God. I now can pray with confidence that my prayers will not only be heard, but answered.

Brother George, the way you taught us of the shepherds has truly opened up my eyes and heart towards the Elders of the flock. Nor did I realize the true importance of encouragement until Brother Denny Coburn taught me at the LEAP Program about it. In this day and age, it is so important to have true, sound Bible teaching. Thank you for providing that. Because of the things I have learned at Summit, I have been able to witness correctly to both of my sons. I just baptized my oldest son, Joshua David, this week.

Brother George, I owe you so much. I pray the Lord blesses you one-thousand-fold. Thank you again.”

--Steve Walters - Student at Summit’s Fall Semester 2016

We’ve Been Down This Road Before

--By John Waddey, Editor of Christianity: Then & Now November 2010 Volume 10, Number 3 subscription

To those familiar with our brotherhood’s history, the things currently transpiring are strangely familiar. In the “change movement”, we are witnessing a virtual replay of the events that led to the fragmenting of our “Back-to-the-Bible Movement” in the last half of the 19th century.

There were intellectuals who had studied at the great secular universities such as Princeton, Harvard, and Yale. There, their faith had been undermined and their hearts filled with arrogant pride.

There were the Christian Schools founded by God-fearing Christians, but co-opted by liberal progressives who used them to mold and shape the young minds vouched-safe to them.

By causing them to question and doubt the faith of their parents and their home churches, they transformed them into missionaries of their liberal vision.

There were the large, wealthy city congregations. Their wealth and social standing of their members made them ashamed of the simple faith, the old-fashioned Bible preaching and unadorned worship of their predecessors. They were embarrassed at the thought of being different from their Protestant neighbors.

They were ashamed not to participate in the ecumenical activities of other churches. They were willing to conform and compromise to gain acceptance by their religious neighbors.

There were the younger, affluent members who had no appreciation for those who had proceeded them in the church. They viewed our forefathers as relics from a by-gone era, whose vision and message were no longer relevant.

In fact, they smiled with arrogant pity at their simple ways. They wanted excitement, entertainment and a religion that was less demanding. They thought themselves to be more intelligent than the older members, and therefore, entitled to demand changes to the faith and worship of the church.

There were the preachers who played a large role in the apostasy of that day. There were those who aspired to popularity and greatness. They were willing to say and do whatever it took to have a large following. They were proud and arrogant men whose pride far exceeded their knowledge of Scripture. They scorned the faith and convictions of the pioneers. They were sure their ideas were superior.

There were the weak, malleable men who knew better, but from lack of courage and conviction, yielded to the demands of the worldly crowd that demanded changes.

The progressive crowd wanted organs, choirs, and performers. They wanted women leaders. They clamored for acceptance as equals with the worldly denominations. Those weak preachers, like Aaron, gave in and helped create the golden calf (**Ex. 32:1-4**).

So here we are in the 21st century. The Church is being ravaged by those same 19th century problems. Back then the results were devastating.

Satan captured eighty-five percent of our brotherhood. Those who wished to remain true to the Lord were left badly beaten, dispossessed of their Church property, and forced to start all over again.

What will the end result be in our day?

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“Show me a person who doesn't make mistakes and I will show you a person who doesn't do anything.”

--Leonard Rubino

Does Acts 14:23 Indicate a Vote?

--By Terry Carter

Those who want to justify the selection of leaders in the Church by means of a popular vote, sometimes point to **Acts 14:23** for support.

“So when they had **appointed** elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.” **Acts 14:23 NKJV**

They argue that the Greek word for “appointed” NKJV or “ordained” KJV has the idea of ‘stretching forth the hand’. Therefore, they argue that it is an indication that those elders were chosen by a congregational vote. I would like to discuss whether this conclusion is justified on the basis of this word.

First of all, it is worth asking, who was doing the appointing or ordaining here? Who is referred to by “they” in this verse? There is no doubt that “they” in verse 23 refers to Paul and Barnabas, who are named in verses 19-20. In fact, the word “they” appears 12 times in verses 21-28 and it refers to Paul and Barnabas every time. Clearly, this section of Scripture is focusing on what Paul and Barnabas did, not on what the churches did.

“19 Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned **Paul** and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. 20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day **he departed with Barnabas** to Derbe.” **Acts 14:19-20 NKJV**

This is significant because verse 23 is not talking about the actions of the churches. It is talking about the actions of Paul and Barnabas. Thus, even if the word means to vote, it was not the Church that was voting, it was Barnabas and Paul.

But does it make sense for Paul and Barnabas to vote on the elders that they were commending to the Lord? It doesn't seem sensible to me since there were only two of them. When two people vote, there are really only two possible outcomes. Either the vote is unanimous or it is a tie. If it is unanimous, there is not much point to voting in the first place. If it is a tie, how do you break the tie? It simply does not make sense for two people to vote. Thus, the context is against the idea that these elders were appointed by a popular congregational vote.

But before we decide on this issue, we need to look at the Greek word involved. What does it actually mean in this context? It is true that the word has the idea of ‘stretching forth the hand’. But we must ask if that is the idea it conveys in this context.

The Greek word here is "*cheirotoneo*". It only appears twice in the New Testament – **Acts 14:23** and **2 Corinthians 8:19** where it is translated "chosen".

"18 And we have sent with him the brother whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches, 19 and not only that, but who was also **chosen** by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and to show your ready mind," **2 Corinthians 8:18-19 NKJV**

This verse is talking about a brother who travelled with Titus. Verse 18 says he was praised throughout all the churches. Verse 19 adds that he was chosen by the churches to travel with Paul with the gift.

Does anybody believe that this unnamed brother was chosen by the churches to travel with Paul by a popular vote? Would anybody suggest that this is the way we should decide who travels together in the church today? I've never heard anybody advocate such an idea. The idea is simply that it was not Paul who chose this man, but the churches themselves. How that choice was made is simply not stated in this passage.

Although the Greek word "*cheirotoneo*" does not appear anywhere else in the New Testament, the compound of this word, "*procheiratoneo*" does appear once in **Acts 10:41** where it is translated "chosen".

"Not to all the people, but to witnesses **chosen** before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead." **Acts 10:41 NKJV**

Clearly it is God who did the choosing here. Obviously there was no voting involved here. God simply chose Himself those who would be witnesses of the resurrection.

Neither the Greek word "*cheirotoneo*" nor its compound "*procheiratoneo*" have the idea of a popular vote in the other passages of the New Testament where they appear.

Further, we have already seen that the context of **Acts 14:23** argues against the idea of a popular vote in being indicated by this Greek word.

But what do the lexicons say? Let's listen carefully to some of them.

CHEIROTONEO, "primarily used of voting in the Athenian legislative assembly and meaning "to stretch forth the hands" (*cheir*, "the hand," *teino*, "to stretch"), **is not to be taken in its literal sense; it could not be so taken in its compound *procheiratoneo*, "to choose before," since it is said of God, Acts 10:41. *Cheirotoneo* is said of "the appointment" of elders by apostolic missionaries in the various churches which they revisited, Acts 14:23, RV, "had appointed," i.e., by the recognition of those who had been manifesting themselves as gifted of God to discharge the functions of elders** (see No. 2). It is also

said of those who were "appointed" (**not by voting, but with general approbation**) by the churches in Greece to accompany the Apostle in conveying their gifts to the poor saints in Judea - **2 Corinthians 8:19**. See CHOOSE, ORDAIN." **Vines Expository Dictionary appoint, number 11.**

"With the loss of the notion of extending the hand, to *elect, appoint, create...*Acts 14:23" **Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon.**

Notice that Thayer specifically says that in **Acts 14:23**, it does not have the notion of extending the hand. He also cites secular writings as examples of this use of the word without the idea of voting. This includes Philo and Josephus who were contemporaries of the New Testament writers.

Listen closely to what the respected Greek scholar A. T. Robertson has to say about it.

"*Cheirotoneô* (from *cheirotonos*, extending the hand, *cheir*, hand, and *teinô*, to stretch) is an old verb that originally meant to vote by show of the hands, finally to appoint with the approval of an assembly that chooses as in **2 Corinthians 8:19**, and then to appoint without regard to choice as in Josephus (Ant. XIII. 2, 2) of the appointment of Jonathan as high priest by Alexander. So in **Acts 10:41** the compound *procheiratoneô* is used of witnesses appointed by God." **Robertson's Word Pictures on Acts 14:23.**

"The first aorist passive participle *cheirotoneôtheis* is from *cheirotoneô*, old verb to stretch out the hands (*cheir teinô*) and so to vote in public...Only here in N.T. save **Acts 14:23** where it means to appoint without notion of raising the hands. In **Acts 10:41** we have *procheirotoneô*." **Robertson's Word Pictures on 2 Corinthians 8:19.**

So Vine, Thayer, and Robertson are all in agreement that the word does not carry the idea of stretching forth the hand or raising the hand in **Acts 14:23**.

Most translators apparently agree as they generally translate the word as "ordained", "appointed", or "chose". I did find two that included the idea of a show of hands or voting in their translations.

"And in every Church, after prayer and fasting, **they selected Elders by show of hands**, and commended them to the Lord on whom their faith rested." **Acts 14:23 WNT**

"And having **appointed to them by vote** elders in every assembly, having prayed with fastings, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed." **Acts 14:23 YLT**

It is not surprising that Young's Literal Translation renders it this way as its focus is on being a literal translation. But

a literal translation can sometimes be misleading. We use many words and phrases every day in a way that is contrary to their literal or original meaning.

This actually illustrates that a literal translation can be misleading. It also illustrates how the etymology of a word can be misleading. The original idea of a word can be lost over time as it is pressed into new service or generalized. We ought to be careful about jumping to conclusions about a word's use in a specific context simply because of its literal meaning or origins.

Alexander Straunch put it well in a footnote in his book *Biblical Eldership: An Urgent Call to Restore Church Leadership*.

"The point is, cheirotoneo can mean to elect or appoint. The context, not the etymology, determines its meaning. The context [Acts 14:23] is perfectly clear that appoint is the only possible meaning here." Page 82, footnote 4.

I did, however, find several translations that indicated that Paul and Barnabas chose, appointed, or ordained elders "for them". That is, they chose the elders for the churches. The ASV, RSV, NIV, MNT, MKJV, TCNT, WEB, and the Living Oracles all render it so.

The Modern King James translation is especially interesting here. It seems to me that they have captured the idea perfectly. Paul and Barnabas hand-picked elders for them in every church.

"And having hand-picked elders for them in every church, and had prayed with fastings, they commended them to the Lord into whom they believed." Acts 14:23 MKJV

So does **Acts 14:23** indicate a popular vote? The context is against it.

The use of the Greek word and its compound in other New Testament verses is against it. Standard lexicons are against it. Well respected Greek scholars are against it. The translators are against it.

I think that ought to settle the question.



~ MOMENTS ~

In the Happy Moments.....Praise God.
In the Difficult Moments..... Lean on God.
In the Lost Moments.....Seek God.
In the Quiet Moments.....Trust God.
In Every Moment.....Thank God.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything, give thanks; for this is the Will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Illegal Aliens and the Mixed Multitude

Today we have an estimated 20 million illegal aliens in our country. Yes, they are aliens and they are illegal. That is, they are not citizens and they are law breakers. Using semantics will not change what they really are.

In a similar way, we have millions of unconverted people in our churches. Like the illegal aliens, they have no interest in the origins, principles, history, or the laws of the land to which they have fled. In fact they seek to change the new land to be like the country of Egypt from which they fled earlier.

All that is important to them is what they want to do. They think that by their will they can make the Church a democracy by the voting of the legitimate citizens and themselves rather than a theocracy where God rules. But where God speaks, none of us have a vote.

The audacity of non-citizens to demand rights simply amazes me. They often undermine those in authority and burn our flag, the very emblem of our country. They are attempting to change us to their liking. Divine ordinances or founding principles mean nothing at all to the unconverted tag-alongs. They are like the mixed-multitudes that came out of Egypt and set Israel to murmuring over and over in the wilderness. They are complainers, instigators of rebellion and grumblers against the things God has commanded.

Note these Scriptures:

Exodus 12:38, "And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, *even* very much cattle."

Numbers 11:4, "And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting; and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?"

This mixed multitude, or aliens, wanted to escape their own taskmasters and followed God's people.

Illegal Aliens:

- ✘ Split loyalties.
- ✘ Refuse to enter the desired country in the legitimate and legal way.
- ✘ Refuse to recognize the established authority.
- ✘ Want the privileges of being a citizen without respecting the obligations of citizenship.
- ✘ Claim the same rights of citizenship without the duties of citizenship.
- ✘ Hinder the welfare of the citizens and use up the resources of the country for their own use.

- ✘ Refuse to learn to speak the language of the legitimate citizens and speak their own language but expect citizens to learn to communicate with them rather than them learning to speak the language of the citizens.
- ✘ Increase the sin and confusion of their new adoptive country and try to bend the laws of the land to serve to their advantage.
- ✘ Expect to collect what they have not contributed towards, as if they were citizens.
- ✘ Raise the cost of doing normal business of meeting the needs of caring for the real citizens of the country.
- ✘ Support their own people rather than contributing to those who are paying for food, clothing, and caring for their needs.
- ✘ Work the “uninformed citizens” into riots, terrorism, and demonstrations against the law.
- ✘ Expect to vote, change laws and choose officers in order to make their wishes the law of the land.

It will not work for a nation, it will not work for the Lord’s Church. Those who are pretenders and not true citizens seek to force upon the citizens their own desires. Personal greed is the pole star, or their ambition.

The mixed-multitude brought the destruction of those in the wilderness. They set Israel to murmuring and destroyed a whole generation of Israelites.

The only answer to this problem is for the young citizens to learn and to outlive the foolishness of this present generation and not listen to those “tag-alongs” who did not escape the profane thinking of Egypt.

What are we to do?

Nehemiah 9:1-3, “1 Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them. 2 **And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins**, and the iniquities of their fathers. 3 And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God *one* fourth part of the day; and *another* fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God.

Nehemiah 13:3, “Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, **that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.**”

The mixed-multitude had wanted to leave bondage, the hard taskmasters in Egypt, the hard work, and the whips.

They desired to help spoil the Egyptians and tagged along with God’s people.

They were prepared to join a great Exodus. There are always believers, unbelievers, and make-believers. The latter are great enemies of the Church or a nation.

Who does not want to appear to be a part of a people who desire to be going into a land flowing with milk and honey? These are the insurrectionists, the grumblers, complainers, demanders of alleged rights, impatient, murmurers. Living on riotous outbursts they are stumblingblocks to God’s people. Remember, God removed the rebels and they didn’t enter the Promised Land.

Ezekiel 20:36-38, “36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. 37 And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: 38 **And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.**”

*Illegal Aliens Can
Ruin a Nation...and
the Lord’s Church!*

Numbers 14:22-24, “22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, **neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:** 24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.”

Numbers 32:11-15, “11 **Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:** 12 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD. 13 And the LORD’S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had **done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.** 14 And, behold, ye are risen up in your fathers’ stead, an increase of sinful men, to augment yet the fierce anger of the LORD toward Israel. 15 For if ye turn away from after him, he will yet again leave them in the wilderness; and ye shall destroy all this people.”

See also **Chapters 25 and 26 of Numbers** and see the end of the “tag-alongs”.

Joshua and Caleb and some Priests of Levi, did not die and yet all the adult Jews and mixed-multitudes died in the wilderness. The obedient entered rest in the Promised Land, which represents Heaven.

Beware of the mixed-multitude who set Israel to murmuring.

1 Corinthians 10:5-12, "5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. 7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. 9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. 10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

Hebrews 3:16-19 – 4:2, "16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. 17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. 1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."

Illegal aliens can ruin a nation... and the Lord's Church!

Are you an unbeliever, a make-believer, or a real believer? The difference is Heaven!

THE DIFFERENCE

I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me
and heavier came each task;
"Why doesn't God help me? I wondered,
He said, "But you didn't ask".

I wanted to see joy and beauty
but the day toiled on, gray and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me,
He said, "But my child, you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock. God gently and lovingly
chided, "My child, you didn't knock".

I woke up early this morning
and paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish
that I HAD to take time to pray.

--Author Unknown

Summit Has Been Blessed...

As you know we made a commitment when we began the Summit Theological Seminary in 1984, we would not make requests, send letters or beg for support. You cannot believe how successful it has been to take God at His Word and let our requests be made known unto Him. We have not broken our intention and we do not do so now. This is just a "thank you".

We're telling you how much we appreciate the Christians who did as Israel did in the Old Testament when they gave toward the work of God. **Exodus 35:29**, "The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses."

Last year we received over \$203,000.00 of unsolicited gifts!! One dear brother called and said, "Do you need anything?" And even when we were not pressed at that time, he sent it anyway! He sent \$25,000.00 last year. He claims to be retired but he is busy as can be preaching wherever a door is open.

This year we went from 8 churches to 25 churches who give each month. We will also have people call to tell us they have put us in their Will or made us beneficiaries of their Annuities or Life Insurance.

These have all been unsolicited. We not only do not have to do mailings, which takes time, money, and postage, but we do not have to pay a salary to a money raiser.

We praise God that it is as always said, "Money follows ministry."

Our student body is growing, we pay our employees and instructors well and our students seem to be all over the world preaching the Gospel.

Our bills are all current. Oh, how we thank God that when I die people won't say, "And the beggar died".

"20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." - **Ephesians 3:20-21**

ANOTHER BAPTISM....

In the years that STS has been in Peru, IN, 25 of the audit students who have attended our free classes, have been baptized into Christ. After our evening class on February 2nd, 2017, another student from Brother Shane Capps' class was added to the Kingdom making a total of 26 conversions after hearing the teaching from God's Word.

There are things more important than money!

Liberty is NOT License

PRINCIPLE	REFERENCE	DEFINITION OF PRINCIPLE	EXAMPLE
LAW	I JOHN 3:4	Relation to God ~ Wrong in itself. VOICE ABOVE – REVELATION Definitely Prohibited by "Thus saith the Lord."	Stealing Adultery
LEARNING	HEBREWS 5:12-14	Relation to God ~ Wrong in its use. VOICE WITHOUT – HISTORY * Prohibited by Scriptural Principle.	Smoking Tobacco
CONSCIENCE	ROMANS 14:22, 23 I JOHN 3:19, 20 I CORINTHIANS 8:7	Relation to God ~ Perhaps not wrong. VOICE WITHIN – CONSCIENCE (*) Prohibited if we doubt.	Eating Where Liquor is Sold
EDIFICATION	I CORINTHIANS 10:23	Relation to God ~ Absolutely not sin. Prohibited if not expedient.	Eating Meat
LOVE	I CORINTHIANS 8:9-13 I JOHN 2:10 MATTHEW 18:1-9 MATTHEW 16:23 I SAMUEL 14:24f	Relation to God ~ Absolutely not sin. Prohibited if causes brother to be offended, to violate their conscience.	Eating in Restaurant that Sells Liquor.

Here Christian Liberty Begins...But

* Commands, Inferences, and examples help us determine if it law, learning, or conscience.
* Remember, the conscience can be seared, defiled, weak, or ignorant according to the Scriptures.