

“CHURCH FOR SALE”

While driving down the road I recently saw a church building that had long since closed its doors. The church marquee read simply “for sale.” Scouring the pages of the most recent Saturday paper found still another church property being listed for sale. I must admit that neither of these sales saddened me, for both of these listings were for man-made churches. Seeing these churches for sale got me to thinking: how many today are selling the church without putting up a sign? Man-made churches have already sold out to the Devil’s brand of religion. That is the reason denominations exist in the first place. The “Burger King” (“Have It Your Way”) mentality has long been characteristic of denominationalism. Sadly, such has become all too common among congregations of the Lord’s church.

Many have sold out the Lord and his church for the silver of sectarianism. Some are operating under the impression that if the church does not change and become like the denominations round about us that we are doomed to shrivel up and die. So our brethren are saying, “Give us a Family Life Center/praise team/drama group/Thursday night communion service/baby dedication that we may be like all the denominations about us” (see 1 Sam.8:5, 20). That is precisely what has happened within many congregations of the Lord’s church: they have become just another denomination among denominations, and they “love to have it so” (Jer.5:31). We should be alarmed at the indifference among members of the Lord’s church toward division and denominationalism.

Many have sold out the Lord and his church for the mammon of materialism. The Devil has made his way into the hearts of so many through temporal trinkets. He knows that he can minimize the influence of the church on the world, not by causing us to love the Lord less, but to love the world more (1 John 2:15). The endless pursuit of material baubles has caused many members of the body of Christ to lose sight of their priorities. Many have sold out their families and the church for a few more dollars in their bank account, or the latest in designer clothing or new cars. How many clamor for the things of the world to the point that they cannot give as they ought to the Lord’s cause because they are living beyond their means? How many don’t make it to Bible class or worship because they are taking an extra shift at work for the overtime to pay for things they don’t really need but “have to have?” Satan has sold us a bill of goods. It is no longer “in God we trust,” but “in G.O.D. (good old dollar) we trust.” We must “labor not for the meat that perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life” (John 6:27).

The Lord’s church is being pressured from within and without to sell out our convictions. The coins of compromise are constantly being thrown at our feet by the Judases of the world who have already sold out the Lord. The price for the church has already been paid, and can never be met again (Acts 20:28). The church is not for sale!

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