

WHAT IS RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH?

In a time when many congregations of the Lord's church are leaving the pattern of God's word, when false teachers are lauded and encouraged by our brethren, when many of God's children are embracing denominational dogmas in the name of love and tolerance, it is easy to find ourselves asking, "What is wrong with the church?" Many times it appears we are fighting a losing battle as Satan claims victory after victory. Have we lost sight of the rose because of a few thorns? Are we allowing the evil actions of some to blind our eyes from seeing the beauty of the Lord's church and the good being done by those who compose his precious bride?

God is still adding the saved to the church (Acts 2:47). In a time when man ridicules the idea that the church is not important, when man says that one can follow Jesus without being a part of his church, the Lord continues to add precious souls to the church. Every time an honest soul yields to the will of God, culminating in one's being baptized for the remission of sins, God adds another name to the roll. There, in heaven's Book of Life, are the names of all the faithful saints who have submitted their lives to the word of the Lord. Those who become Christians are not added to a denomination. They are not added to a social or civic club. The saved are being added daily to the church of Christ! This is what is right with the church!

God is still being glorified through the church (Eph.3:20). Man's feeble attempts to bring honor and glory unto God apart from the church are futile. God will not, and cannot be glorified in a denomination. God will not, and cannot be glorified in a Unity Forum. God will not, and cannot be glorified by an Inter-faith Council. Since the establishment of Christ's church, God always has and He always will receive glory only in the church! Just as in the days of Paul, God is being glorified by those who stand firm upon the truth of God's word. All over the globe, those precious saints who are fighting the good fight of faith are bringing glory to the Almighty. This is what is right with the church!

Countless numbers of priceless souls are being brought to Christ as a result of the church of our Lord. The church of Christ is still following the mission of her Master (Lk.19:10). In a day and age when ecumenism has crippled evangelism in many religious organizations, the Lord's church continues to seek out the lost in every corner of the globe so that these souls may hear the good news about salvation in Christ, and the beauty of the one church. With every passing day, new souls are taught the gospel. People everywhere are being baptized into Christ, ever expanding the kingdom of God's dear Son. As a result of the efforts of faithful brethren, the church continues to grow the world over! This is what is right with the church!

Despite all the negative things that abound in the world today, despite all the evil influences that have crept into the precious bride of Christ, there are still many things that are right with the church. Sometimes it takes the bad

things in life to make us see what is good. We cannot ignore the evil that many in the church have embraced. It must be answered. It must be dealt with. It must be defeated. However, let's not be guilty of forgetting all the things that are right with the church. And there are so many things that are right with the church!

Patrick Morrison