

Why Do You Oppose  
Orphan Homes?

# Issue: church donations to institutions to do the work of the church

- Before 1849 . . .
  - United brotherhood
  - Preached gospel; saved many
  - Some wanted to imitate denominations – organized ACMS
    - Fewer were taught gospel
    - Paved way for more apostasy

## History repeats

- Before 1950 . . .
  - Most churches opposed M. Society
  - Preached gospel; saved many.
  - Few understood why they opposed M. Society.
  - Duplicated society in benevolence
    - 1938: G. C. Brewer – schools
    - 1963: B. B. Baxter – schools

# I. Authority Introduced

# Authority Proceeds from Christ

- Mt.28:18, only Source
- Col.3:17, every action
- 2 Tim.3:16-17, written; permanent
- 2 Jn.9-11, no deviation

## Work of church

God's wisdom, Ep.3:10-11

God's glory, Ep.3:20-21

1. **Edify**: Ep.4:16; 1 Co.14
2. **Relieve**: 1 Co.16:1
3. **Evangelize**: 2 Co.11:7-9

Societies are like mobs

# Authority Proceeds from Christ

- Mt.28:18, only Source
- Col.3:17, every action
- 2 Tim.3:16-17, written form
- 2 Jn.9-11, no deviation

Churches once agreed on need for Bible authority. Now, few do.

“The greater significance of the ‘Herald of Truth’ lies in the changes that occurred in the content of its preaching between 1952 and the 1970s. . . . Conventional wisdom suggested that they could not expect to compete effectively in the denominational free market of souls unless they embraced the sort of ‘peace-of-mind’ piety that had dominated the national religious landscape for more than a decade. That is precisely what happened, beginning in 1960...”

– R. Hughes, *Reviving The Ancient Faith*, pp. 240-241.



I. Authority Inherent

II. Authority Illustrated

# Familiar Thread Throughout Bible

- Gn.6, Noah, ark. Hb.11:7
- Lv.10, Nadab, Abihu, fire.
- Ro.6, baptism, burial in water
- Ep.5:19, singing, spiritual
- Hb.10:24-25, assemble, spiritual

I. Authority Inherent

II. Authority Illustrated

III. Authority Inaccuracies

# For a thing to be . . .

1. **RIGHT: 'it must be mentioned explicitly.'** E.g.:

Bible  
classes

Church  
building

Lights,  
seats

- **Druggist**
- Gn.6; Lv.10; Ro.6, etc.

# For a thing to be . . .

1. RIGHT: 'it must be mentioned explicitly.'
2. WRONG: 'it must be condemned explicitly.'
  - Druggist
  - Hb.1:4-5

# Missionary Soc.: Issue is NOT

1. A matter of how (methods)
2. Should churches preach gospel
3. May churches cooperate
4. Systematic arrangement

ISSUE: May churches build / maintain Missionary Society to do their work of evangelism.

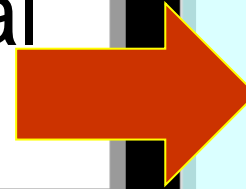
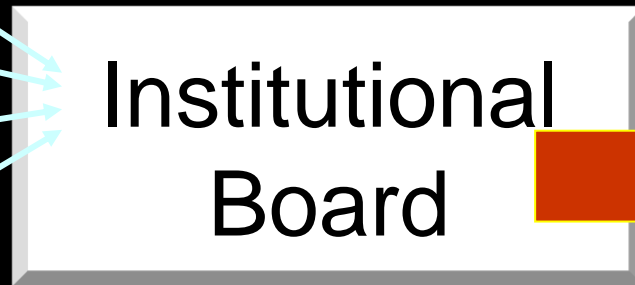
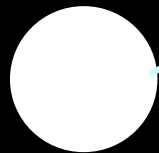
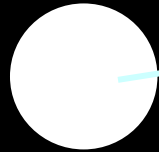
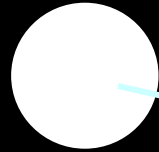
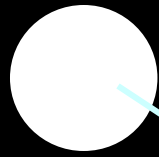
# Benevolent Soc.: Issue is NOT

1. A matter of how (methods)
2. Should churches relieve poor saints
3. May churches cooperate
4. Systematic arrangement

ISSUE: May churches build / maintain Benevolent Society to do their work of benevolence.

# Benevolent Soc. Illustrated

Local  
Churches



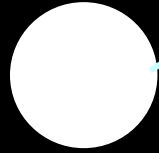
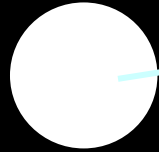
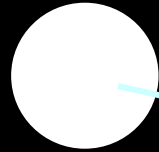
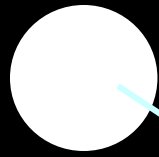
Actual  
Work





# N.T. Benevolence

Local  
Churches

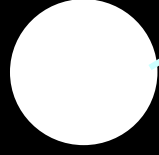
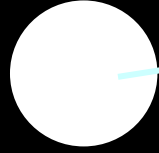
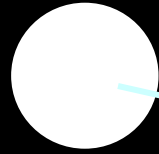
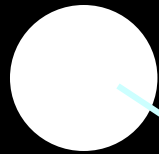


Actual Work.  
May buy services.

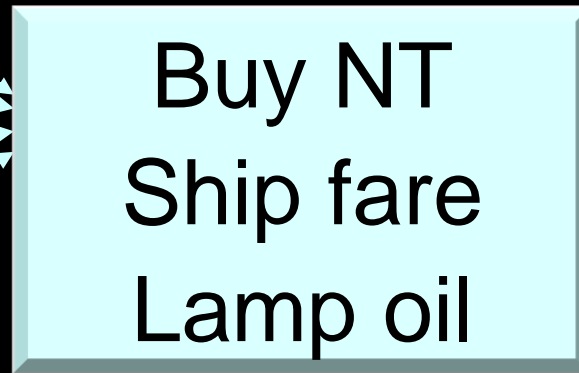


# N.T. Evangelism

Local  
Churches



Actual Work.  
May buy services.



I. Authority Inherent

II. Authority Illustrated

III. Authority Inaccuracies

IV. Authority Impeded

# To justify donating to the board. . .

## 1. "NT does not tell us HOW"

- Baxter: "go"
- Confuses method and organization
- Churches donate to Missionary Society [board]; board decides 'how'

# To justify donating to the board. . .

1. NT does not tell us HOW.

## 2. In Loco Parentis:

Original home destroyed; needy children; donate to board (new home)

- Board = parents; 1 Tim.5:8
- Catholic / Baptist Board?
- NT: saints, not 'homes'

# NT churches cared for saints

- Acts 2, 4, 6
- Acts 11
- Ro.15
- 1 Co.16
- 2 Co.8-9
- 1 Tim.5:16

# Objections

## 1. 2 Co.9:13

- a. If no difference in individual and church, all religious groups?
- b. 1 Co.16; 2 Co.8-9; Ro.15, saints.
  - ▶ Contribution: twofold effect –
    - 1) relieve needy saints
    - 2) assist 'helping' saints
  - ▶ Lenski

## Lenski, 2 Co.9:13

“Secondly, the saints are seen as glorifying God ‘also for the single-mindedness of (your) fellowship with them and with all,’ i.e., all other saints... It is this fellowship of the Corinthians which extends not only to those saints who are being helped at present but to all God’s saints, whether they are helped or not. This is ‘the communion of saints . . . ’” p. 1185f.



# Objections

1. 2 Co.9:13?

2. Gal.6:10?

a. 9 is negative; 10, its positive

b. 'Therefore' – marker of an inference from what has preceded; *so, then, consequently, as a result...* – L-N

c. 'We' churches? (Cf. 4:5, 28, 31)

d. 'Do good to all churches'??

# Objections

1. 2 Co.9:13?

2. Gal.6:10?

3. James 1:27?

*Gospel Advocate, June, 2017*

# Desperate desires produce strange arguments

## Willie the Water Cooler

### Therefore, Church Recreation Rooms

1. May atheists drink?
2. If God authorizes church recreation, may use Willie to aid this work.
3. Willie The Water Cooler party?
4. General authority permits aids in teaching  
... Ac.20; Ja.2

# Apostasy always takes people farther than they want to go

“Though mainstream Churches of Christ time and time again characterized those who opposed institutionalism as unfaithful to the heritage, the truth is that the dissenters stood squarely in one set of footprints of the nineteenth-century Churches of Christ. And by the time the battle over institutions was complete, it was the mainstream – not the dissenters – that had removed itself almost entirely from its nineteenth century roots” – Richard Hughes, *Reviving The Ancient Faith*, p.14