

## Church Challenges

### 2Peter 2:1-3

#### Warned

Church is confronted with many problems & challenges it must overcome!

God warned departure from Truth would come - **Acts 20:28-30**

Stand ready to defend God's way, never compromise God's truth.

#### Worship Practices

Instrumental Music

Many see no harm with instrumental music - solos, choirs, etc.

Instrumental Music not found in the NT - **Ephesians 5:18-21; Colossians 3:16; 2John 9**

Drama Presentations - **Mark 16:15; 1Corinthians 1:21**

Emotionalism

Hand-Clapping, arm waving, light dimming, etc

Changes in Lord's Supper - **1Corinthians 11:17-22**

Religious holidays & Other challenges - **Ephesians 5:18-21; 1Corinthians 16:2; Acts 20:7**

#### Leadership

Not yet among conservatives

Feminism felt in church today. Women inserted in unauthorized roles

Subjection is not culture but creation - **1Corinthians 11:3,8-9; 14:33-35; 1Timothy 2:11-12**

God wants qualified men to lead in worship services.

#### Denominationalism

Two Issues

Joining with religious denominations - pulpit swapping, ecumenical participation

Treating local congregations as "one among many"

Manner used to deal with question of circumcision illustrates each local body is a separate entity without oversight of central earthly organization - **Acts 15**

Lord's church is NOT denomination! - **Matthew 16:18; 15:13; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1Corinthians 1:10-13**

#### Weak Preaching

"Book, Chapter, Verse" preaching presently called mean-spirited - **2Timothy 4:3-4**

Problem of the Israelites - **Isaiah 30:9-11; Jeremiah 5:30-31**

Scriptures command preachers to preach God's truth

**Acts 20:26-27; Galatians 1:10-12; 1Peter 3:14-16; 2Timothy 4:1-2; Jude 3**

Weak preaching = weak Christians. Strong preaching = strong Christians - **Ephesians 4:11-13**

#### Take Action

Present the truth in love and in a positive manner. This is the first step! - **Ephesians 4:14-16**

Rebuke & Expose those who lead & promote false doctrine - **2Timothy 4:2**

Must insist upon soundness being preached and practiced in the Lord's church. This is the only way!

Are you ready to face the challenge?

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