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On iTunes, search “oologah church of Christ” in the podcast section

Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

I Love God (Mk 12:28-30)

PM Sermon

The Four Horses & the Martyrs
(Revelation 6)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Outline of the Bible - Praschnik

Wednesday Bible Class:

Proverbs 14 – R. Earl

In SEARCH of the Lord’s Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

The Truth in Love

on Channel 19 Sundays @ 8am

The Gospel of Christ TV Program

on Saturday @ 7:30am on Channel 53

Media & Podcast network

Visit www.biblewaymedia.org for more info.

The Oologah church of Christ only uses the **KJV, NKJV or ASV** translation of the Bible in classes & sermons.

The Oologah Informer **March 11th, 2018**

Thoughts from the Preacher

“Not a Smartphone”

Your Spouse is not something you upgrade every two years.

Weekly Article

THE DOORS WERE CLOSED!

Toney L. Smith

The preacher looked out over the audience and could not help but notice the empty pews. Pews that in days gone by were occupied. What could be the problem he wondered? The same old-time gospel was being taught, the Lord’s Supper and giving were still observed on the first day of each week. Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs were being sung. Beautiful heart felt prayers were being worded just as in the past. So, what had caused the pews to become empty?

Sometimes we are asked the question what happened to a congregation at a certain location? Although we may not know the details, we can know that something happened to cause the doors to be closed. We would be wise to study what happened to strong, sound, faithful congregations that we read about in scripture.

The congregation at Jerusalem was the first to be established (Acts 2). We read of how it grew and became strong (Acts 4:4, 32; 5:14). However, I am told that today there are fewer than 25 members in the birthplace of the church. What happened? What about the church in Corinth? Paul preached the gospel, and the congregation was established (Acts 18:8). Today, no church exists in Corinth. Soon after it’s establishment, we read of things that would eventually bring about apostasy. There was division (1 Cor. 1:10-13), they were carnally minded (1 Cor. 3), they tolerated sin within the church (1 Cor. 5), they became liberal in their worship (1 Cor. 11), love was missing in the congregation (1 Cor. 13), and false teachers were tolerated (2 Cor. 11). We also note the seven churches in Asia that are mentioned in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. Only two of those congregations found favor in the Lord’s sight. The church at Ephesus had “left their first love” (Rev. 2:4). With each of these churches, error came in, and the congregation declined. Timothy was exhorted to preach the word (2 Tim. 4:1-2). Paul then gives the reason for the urgency. He wrote to Timothy, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

What closed the doors? An empty building is the product of a membership that became lax in their devotion to God. The gospel is still the “power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16). Doors are not closed due to the ineffectiveness of God’s word. In most cases closed doors are due to the ineffectiveness of church members. We must take

care never to allow unscriptural innovations into the worship and we must begin taking the Great Commission seriously (Mark 16:15-16). Congregation must endeavor “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3) and “consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Heb. 10:24). We must guard against a time when someone could ask, “What happened to the church at our location?” We can prevent this sad situation by upholding sound doctrine and being involved in church matters. Faithfulness to the Lord will keep the doors open.