

Prayer List

Sheila
Ophelia
Josh
Daniel
Olene
Arley

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 9:50 a.m.
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Pinole Tidings

www.pinolechurchofchrist.com

Vol. 13, No. 40 - July 15, 2012

Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Ernie Sprinkel - preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

What king received a letter from Elijah predicting judgement on his sinful reign?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Isaiah - Isaiah 40:22

Published by the church of Christ which meets at 755 Pinole Valley Road, Pinole, CA 94564, Phone (510) 724-1994, (Mailing address: church of Christ, P.O. Box 453, Pinole, CA 94564)

WHEN SIN CREEPS IN

One of the dangers increased by a lack of regular communication among brethren is that of errors creeping into local churches through misguided members. If we frankly and freely discussed what we believe, and if we asked questions of others relative to possible conclusions being entertained regarding Scriptures that we have been studying and are concerned about, then each of us would be in a better position to be corrected or to correct others before error has taken firm root. When it seems that one particular error has been exposed and overcome, we may tend to become too complacent, thinking that all is well. But Satan has not retired, and although he flees from the truth, he is busy looking for a new scheme to plant, or a new doctrine to introduce. Hence, the battle must go on.

Observant Christians can detect the sprouting seeds of error in our own time and circumstance, we can see departures taking place, and we may feel rather

helpless to do anything to correct them because we have no contact with those who have embraced various errors. Perhaps it is past time for us to use our telephones (and computers if we are computer literate) to initiate questionings and discussions with those who have publicly espoused religious error. It may be that written communication can develop to set forth the teaching of the Scriptures.

New issues are sometimes old issues clothed in different garb. For example, some of the brethren who stood firmly against errors of the Fifties and Sixties regarding the eldership, local autonomy, the all-sufficiency of the church through Scriptures, Bible authority, and the work of the church have in recent years begun to advocate similar forms of those same errors. Teaching that advocates miraculous work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of saints and in assemblies of the church is among us today. Some brethren have begun having fellowship with denominational churches, participating in unscriptural religious festivals. Some are teaching and practicing eating the Lord's Supper in connection with a common meal. Some have now placed instrumental music in worship in the realm of opinion and human tradition and have dropped their objections to its use. Some are advocating elders over a city, overseeing a number of local assemblies in that city. Some are meeting in homes in small, informal settings, with women and men participating freely on an equal footing of leadership, and eating and drinking freely of the elements of the Lord's Supper along with other

items of a common meal. Some brethren also hold that there are faithful Christians in at least most denominations, thus erasing the singular, special identity of the Lord's church. Some are teaching that hell, as a place of eternal torment, does not exist. The conclusion of many is that Christians' obligation as citizens of an earthly nation is greater than their obligation to the kingdom of God. Some preachers are now contending that there are several grounds for Scriptural divorce. Most likely there are other budding or blossoming errors among us, and we can be certain that the end of such is not in sight.

This writing is not intended to discourage or cause cynicism but to exhort all who read these things to arm themselves with the truth which is stronger than any evil thing. The shield of faith, built of conviction of the truth, is able to quench all the fiery darts of Satan. Do not despair, but be strong and very courageous, renewed day by day with the living oration of a healthy diet of spiritual nourishment -- the milk and the meat of the Word of God. "In due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Gal. 6:9).

Gilbert Alexander via The Gospel Power, Vol. 19, No. 6, June, 2012.