

PLAIN SPEECH

Volume 2 – Issue 36 – 21 June 2009

“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

STUPID STATEMENTS FROM “CHURCH” WEBSITES

Not too long ago I was surfing the web and taking a look at various websites built by liberal churches. So very often I came across some ridiculous statements on said sites. Below are some examples. In each example I’ve emphasized a portion. I then have a comment or two to offer after each stupid statement.

“The first priority for the new church was to retire the debt on the land and erect a building that would be a credit to the community” (<http://www.bvbid.org/History.html>).

Are you kidding me? How building oriented! Shouldn’t the first priority be spiritual? (cf. 1 Th. 1:8; Eph. 4:16; 1 Tim. 5:16).

“We want this site to function as a window into our church’s life” (<http://eastsidechurch.us/about>).

I did not know that anyone from Eastside “church” purchased the church with blood (cf. Ax. 20:28). Also, maybe I’m wrong, but I am fairly certain that the inspired apostle Paul did not write: “To your church in Corinth” (cf. 1 Cor.1:1-2).

“Sometimes people call me Pastor Doug or something like that, and I don’t really mind” (<http://www.livedifferentchurch.org>).

Oh, so we can wear titles we know are improper and act like it’s no big deal. Maybe I have been wrong all these years about not wanting to be called either “Reverend Scott” or “Apostle Parker” (cf. Ps. 119:11; 2 Cor. 12:12; 1 Cor. 9:1).

“It is an imperfect journey... we are imperfect people and we don’t have all the answers” (<http://www.livedifferentchurch.org>).

Moving past that it sure seems like these folks want an excuse to live in sin (cf. Rom. 6:1-2; 2 Cor. 7:1), what’s this nonsense about not having all the answers? Unreal! Have these folks in Evergreen, Colorado never read 2 Tim. 3:16-17 or 2 Pet. 1:3?

“The Lord had truly blessed the new work, and the desire of the congregation and its leadership was to reach out and establish a program of work that would encompass every land. Sunday afternoon, May 9, 1965, a special meeting of the church was called by the elders who submitted the proposal that Bear Valley begin a preacher training school. The response from the congregation was unanimously in favor” (<http://www.bvbid.org/History.html>).

I did not know that congregations have the right to legislate what a local church may be involved in irrespective of biblical authority. Notice that the congregation’s desire, not a “thus saith the Lord” was the springboard for the preacher training school. Does 1 Sam. 8:1-7 come to anyone else’s mind?

“The Dahlia Street Church of Christ seeks to follow the same divinely inspired pattern that the Christians of the New Testament did. Our present facility at 1100 Dahlia has been occupied since April of 1963. It includes auditorium seating for eight hundred, a library, fellowship hall, twenty-four classrooms, and a food bank” (<http://www.dahliachurch.org>).

The folks at Dahlia Street equate fellowship with fun and food. I challenge their preacher, Ken Dawdy, to show me in the “divinely inspired pattern” of the New Testament where the early church built “fellowship halls” dedicated for carnal activities. I challenge him to show me according to the form of sound words (2 Tim. 1:13) that entertainment is a work of a local church.

“Angel Food Ministries crosses denominational lines and has spread the good news of the gospel of Christ through salvation tracts that are placed in each food order” (http://www.walsenburgchurchofchrist.com/angel_food_main.htm).

The social gospel at work! This is not proper (cf. 1 Cor.1:21). This is called “bait and switch” in sales.

“Enter the church through the back door (lower entrance)” (<http://www.southeast-church.org/Foodbank.cfm>).

So the church is a physical structure, huh?! Wow! Have these guys ever read the Bible? (cf. Ax. 2:47; 11:22; 12:5; et al).