

# The Old Paths

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## "It Is Gospel Meeting Time!"

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## Church Choirs

Aaron Erhardt, Louisville, KY

**T**his week, our gospel meeting begins with brother Aaron Erhardt. Throughout our meeting, we will have congregational singing, prayers, and gospel preaching. Let us remember our responsibilities toward this meeting, and support it by our attendance, our prayers, and in every way we can. What a great opportunity we have before us! Let us be excited and ready to hear God's will preached by brother Erhardt. Let us also be busy in inviting others to come to the meeting. This meeting continues through Friday night (starting at **7:00 pm**). Lord willing, our friends and loved ones will have several opportunities to hear God's word preached in its purity and simplicity.

This is a very important study. **ALL** will benefit by coming each night. If you have something planned this week, **cancel it!!** Nothing should come between us and God. This meeting will only be a success if **you** are here!

Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to come here and hear the gospel (Acts 10:33). We need to be as concerned about bringing others to Christ as Andrew was his brother Peter (John 1:40-42). Make sure to bring your "*kinsman and near friends*" as Cornelius did when he had the opportunity to hear the gospel preached (Acts 10:24, 33). We need to open our mouths and tell people about this opportunity to

hear God's word being preached (Acts 8:35). What better time to tell them about their soul's salvation, and bring them to Christ?

If you are interested in learning God's word, you need to be here every night!! Brother Erhardt plans on preaching lessons concerning: The Kingdom (Monday), The Social Gospel (Tuesday), Worldliness (Wednesday), Problems Facing The Church (Thursday), and The One True Church (Friday). Brother Erhardt's sermons will make a spiritual appeal to both the Christian and non-Christian.

There will be no nightly collections. We do not solicit anyone's money. We only solicit your time. If there is anything said that you do not agree with, please feel free to ask Aaron about it. He is "*ready...to give an answer to every man that asketh...with meekness and fear*" (I Peter 3:15). He does not claim to be infallible, but he knows where to go to find the answers to your Bible questions (I Peter 4:11; Colossians 4:6).

Please pray for our efforts in preaching the gospel this week that many will be brought to the Lord as a result of "scattering the seed" of God's word (Matthew 13:3; Luke 8:11).

If anyone would like to have a private study on any Bible-related subject, please feel free to contact Aaron, or me (Isaiah 1:18-20).

**All Visitors Are Welcome, All Members Are Expected!!**

**T**he New Testament instructs us to sing. Just as God specified that "gopher" was the wood He desired for the ark (Gen. 6:14), He specified that "singing" was the music He desired for the church (Col. 3:16). This excludes every other kind of music.

The singing of the church should be congregational. It is to be a reciprocal action, meaning that everyone participates in the song service. Paul wrote:

*"Speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord"* (Eph. 5:19, ASV).

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God"* (Col. 3:16, ASV).

The terms "one to another" (*heautois*) and "one another" (*heautou*) are grammatically classified as reciprocal pronouns. They represent an interchange of action.

Uninspired sources also indicate that singing should involve the whole congregation. Note the following quotes: "In the early church, the whole congregation joined in the singing" (The Ancient Church, pp. 193, 423). "The prevailing mode of singing during the first three centuries was congregational. The whole congregation united their voices in the sacred song of praise" (Ancient Christianity Exemplified, pp. 329, 330). Eusebius, an

early church father, declared that the churches congregational singing was so loud that it could be heard by those standing outside!

I have heard some brethren argue that the church at Corinth had a choir or special singing group (1 Cor. 14:26). If that is not an assumption, what is it? I wonder if they would take the same approach to other passages, like the “feasts of charity” in Jude 12? Could one not argue in favor of church-sponsored meals on the same grounds? Both are mere assumptions.

There are two important things to remember about 1 Corinthians 14:26: (1) The assembly under discussion was a special circumstance, involving miraculous spiritual gifts. (2) It does not mention singing. A psalm can be read or quoted, just as easy as it can be sung.

### Appropriate Questions

What passage authorizes the church to have a choir or special singing group? Is there such a passage? (Scripture?)

Who is selected for the special singing groups? Those who have the most talent singing? If so, is that fair to the other members? (Scripture?)

Who is in charge of selecting the singers? Is it the responsibility of the elders or someone else? (Scripture?)

Will the group perform in front of the congregation? If so, can women participate in the group? (Scripture?)

Is this not engaging in worship by proxy? If the church can employ a special group to sing for

others, can it employ a special group to commune for others too? If not, why not? (Scripture?)

In order to please God, we must have authority (Matt. 7:21-23; Col. 3:17; 2 Tim. 2:5; 1 Pet. 4:11; 2 Jn. 9). The New Testament only authorizes congregational singing!

### Editor's Note:

Brother Erhardt brought up some very important points, I believe. These are things we ought to take to heart as we see brethren continue to slide toward apostasy and denominationalism. It seems some will never be happy until the distinctive message and practice of the Lord's church is but a faint memory in the hearts of people on earth. How happy I am that brother Erhardt wrote this article, and that he is going to be with us this week in the gospel meeting.

Unfortunately, what brother Erhardt wrote about is not something happening only in Louisville, but it is happening in many other parts of our country. I recently received a bulletin which chronicled some of the things that are being taught at ACU (Abilene Christian University), and it would make those who love the Lord and His word cringe to think people are saying such things. Sadly, having choirs and similar things goes right along with the changes those at ACU are suggesting for the Lord's church.

Brethren, let us be satisfied to sim-

ply follow the Lord's will “as is.” From Old Testament days, He told His people not depart to the “*right hand or the left*” from what He had said (Deut. 5:32, 28:14; Josh. 1:7, 23:6; II Kings 22:1-2). So also, in New Testament days, we are told to simply “*speak as the oracles of God*” (I Pet. 4:11). We are expected to “*do all in the name of the Lord Jesus*” (Col. 3:17). We dare not add to, nor take from the will of God to do our own will (Rev. 22:18-19)!

May we have the firm resolve to stand where the Lord wants us to stand. May we determine and decide today that we will do nothing for which we cannot find a “thus saith the Lord.” When we do so, we will be tempted and tested by those wishing to “change,” to “update,” to “modernize,” etc., the Lord's work and worship. This will happen because Satan hates for anyone to do the Lord's will. However, when these trials and temptations come our way, may we stand strong, remember the Lord's words, and not give up. We cannot and must not compromise “the faith one for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). May our strength be in the Lord (Phil. 4:13; Eph. 6:10). May we transform our will to match the Lord's will (Rom. 12:1-2). May we follow in the steps of Christ (I Pet. 2:21-22). When we do this, men will hate us, but God will love us (Jn. 15:18-20). Won't it be worth it all when we see Heaven, and hear the words, “*Well done thou good and faithful servant ...*”!!

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Come and meet with the church at Southside.

Our address is: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303.

#### **MEETING TIMES:**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study ————— 9:30 am**

**Sunday Morning Worship ————— 10:20 am**

**Sunday Evening Worship ————— 6:00 pm**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study ————— 7:00 pm**

Don't forget the call-in radio program on **WBIO, FM 94.7**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-5200** with your Bible question.

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