

HIS ORDINANCES- HIS COMMISSION- OUR OBEDIENCE

Walk into many church services today or view them on the TV and you see a lot of singing, lots of praise, and then a lot of preaching-- mostly about feeling better, sometimes about acting better and in the case of TV, a lot on physical healing, big gains in wealth and wild speculations of prophecies.

There seems to be little said or done about either the ordinances of the church or the commission the church was given. The two traditional ordinances of the church are baptism- into Jesus Christ unto salvation and the Lord's Supper-remembering Jesus death on the cross for our sins. They are intricately connected in that they both picture the essence of the gospel. We die to sin, having repented of it, are buried and raised from the water into a new life, just as Christ died, was buried and rose. The emblems of the Lord's Supper are that of Christ's death, given for us as the New Covenant or promise, and we celebrate with the cup and loaf on the Lord's day, his resurrection day.

To push these aside or forget them is to forget that it is Christ's church and He is the head, the Savior, the Lord. Our services should not be all about a preacher, or music..it should be about Christ. Yes, we should sing, praise and teach..but foremost we want to be obedient to the ordinances Christ gave and to remember our real purpose.

We find little mention in a lot of congregations of the mission of the church - world evangelism. We have plenty of talk sometime about local events, programs and classes, but little talk about what is happening in the rest of the world...the world we have been called to *Go into- to make disciples*. The offerings are brought to support the entire work of the church, not just the local programs--- it should be about supporting the call to carry the gospel to "all nations."

When we gather as Christians in our buildings, let's not forget our obedience to His Ordinances, and His Commission....let's keep the Main Thingour main thing.