

"The entrance of Thy words giveth light..." (Ps 119:130a)

VOL. XLV - No. 02



A Weekly Publication of the LIGHTHOUSE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH ROTC Hunters St., Tatalon, Quezon City, Philippines 1113 PO Box SM264, Manila. Website : http://www.lighthousebbc.org (with on-line video streaming) E-mail : info@lighthousebbc.org

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#### Being Faithful and True in 2022

Rev 22:6,7 "These sayings are

faithful and true... blessed is he that keepeth..."

#### June 5, 2022

# SENATE AND HOR APPROVE THE NATIONAL BAPTIST DAY BILL

"...there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God...do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same..." (Rom 13:1-3).

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake...as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God..." (1 Pet 2:13-15).

"...who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" (1 Pet 3:13).

The 30th of May 2022 will be etched in the history of Baptists in the Philippines, especially those within the Metropolitan BBE, Lighthouse BBC and International BBC (MILE), as the day when both houses of the Philippine Congress approved the National Baptist Day Bill (Senate Bill No 2522). The same day when the bill was approved by the Senate on 3rd and final reading, the House of Representatives, on resolution filed by Deputy Speaker Benny Abante, adopted and approved the same.

As it stands at this time, necessary works are being done so that the National Baptist Day Act may be finalized, to be signed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House and later enrolled for the eventual signing of the President, hopefully, the Lord willing, before he ends his term on June 30.

In his sponsorship speech, immediately after the approval of the bill last Monday, Senator Win Gatchalian, the Chairman of the Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture said, "The piece of legislation before us today, seeks to declare the 2nd Thursday of January of every year a Special Working Holiday to be known as 'National Baptist Day.' This will honor our brothers and sisters who belong to Baptist churches, and to recognize their contribution to building our nation."

The Senator further stated, "The Baptists have distinguished themselves for their involvement in our communities by building schools, hospitals and by giving much-needed aid to communities struck by calamities."

The sponsors of the bill in the Senate included Senators Cynthia Villar, Christopher Lawrence Go and Win Gatchalian. Upon approval, all the rest of the senators expressed their being co-authors.

In all these citations, the truth of God's Word is even made clear when the Bible says, "...do that which is good, and thou shalt have the praise of the same..." Praise God indeed! - PRA



Pastor and Deputy Speaker Benny Abante, Pastor Reuben and PLLO Secretary Baby Pascual are seen sitted at the gallery as Senator Win Gatchalian, Chair of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture delivers his sponsorship speech after the Senate approved on 3rd and final reading the Senate Bill No. 2522, An Act Declaring the Second Thursday of January of Every Year A Special Working Holiday to be known as "National Baptist Day" last Monday, May 30.

LIGHTHOUSE 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER FOCUS TEWARD Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. **KJV** 

Second Quarter Focus : "Being Faithful As Stewards"

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (1 Cor. 4:2)

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21)

### TITLE : PRACTICES OF BIBLICAL NEW TESTAMENT EKKLESIA TEXT :

1 Cor 11:2, "Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you."

2 Thess 2:15-17, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."

#### INTRODUCTION

What are the practices of the New Testament churches that we must keep if we are to remain Biblical Baptist Churches? We all know we as a church "are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Eph 2:19-20).

We must be careful then that we keep as our pattern, the early churches in the New Testament and careful, too, that we keep the precepts and practice of the early churches in the conduct of the ministry - as delivered to them by the Apostles.

We are careful to say, however, that the "traditions" or practices we refer to are those observed by New Testament Churches and not as Jewish customs. We do not intend to make Jewish communities out of our church; but what we want to maintain are practices of the New Testament Churches.

We are also careful that we do not adopt these "traditions" or practices as equal to the two ordinances of the New Testament Church, which are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Rather, these are traditions or practices that make us the peculiar people that we are. Some of these Biblical Practices are:

## 1. The practice of faithfully coming together as New Testament churches.

Nothing can replace the coming together of the saved and baptized people as a New Testament Church. It is senseless to be called a church when we cannot be united in coming together as a people of God. This is one of our distinct qualities. We are an ekklesia - a called-out assembly. As such, we always love to assemble together. Nothing replaces the value of being able to come together in unity in one place.

Acts 2:1, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."

Acts 2:46-47, "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Phil 2:2, "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

## 2. The practice of desiring the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.

Preaching and teaching is as old as our faith. No amount of program, music or presentation can replace these two. They are central to what we are as New Testament Churches. This is the reason why the pulpit remains to be at the center of our stage. We preach and teach "precept upon precept, line upon line."

The preaching and teaching of the Word of God is central in the existence of every New Testament Baptist Church. No amount of program, music or otherwise can replace them. As Biblical Baptist churches we believe that the Word of God must be delivered through preachings and teachings, "precept upon precept, line upon line." Moreover we believe that the preaching of the Word of God should not be limited in time. It is through preaching and teaching that a man is "perfected" in Christ. - to be continued -



(ALOFT). The next overnight is scheduled on September 9, just before the Thanksgiving Through Firstfruits. "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21)