

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

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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..."

3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER FOCUS

"...the darkness is past.

the true light now

shineth...." (1 Jn 2:8)

### July 24, 2022

# PASTOR REUBEN ENJOINS EVERYONE TO ATTEND THE STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

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

"...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev 2:10).

The Lighthouse BBC theme for the year, Being and Faithful and True in 2022, and the 3rd quarter focus, Shining the True Light, both take into consideration the kind of stewardship the whole church performs before God.

The Bible clearly teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ loved and gave Himself for the church; that He sanctifies and cleanses it with the washing of water by the word. All these the Lord faithfully does so that He might present the whole church to Himself as a glorious church, not having spot, wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish (Eph 5:25-27).

This is a blessed truth that every member of the Lighthouse BBC must recognize and endeavor to be a reality for each and every member.

For a couple of weeks, Pastor Reuben emphasized to everyone the command of the Lord Jesus to the

Apostles and the whole Ekklesia that everyone should "seek first", to desire first, to go after first, the kingdom of God and His righteousness. This is to be understood by everyone in Lighthouse BBC as willingness of every member to be within the rule of God in all aspects of life rather than just being able to enter the kingdom of God by the new birth. There is much in having the rule of God in all the lives of all the members of the Lighthouse BBC that accompany the new birth.

Heb 6:9 says, "...beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation..." And having said that there are things that come by the new birth, the Bible continues to say, "...that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end" (Heb 6:11).

The diligence of the whole Ekklesia to the great things that accompany the new birth includes the faithful stewardship of all things that are given to the whole church by God. For this reason, Pastor Reuben enjoins all members of Lighthosue BBC to be at the Stewarship Emphasis on the nights of Tuesday till Thursday this week.



"...the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth" (1 John 2:8).

"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 practices 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.

# 4. The practice of passionately seeing people saved, baptized and growing.

Acts 2:41-42, 46-47, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

"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."

Acts 5:14, "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."

Acts 8:12, "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

### 5. The practice of heartily bringing the Gospel everywhere and anywhere. Building churches and missions.

Planting churches is a practice as old as the New Testament. It should remain to be so in all Lighthouse related churches.

Acts 16:4-5, "And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily."

Acts 11:19-21, "Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord."

1 Thess 1:8, "For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing."

## 6. The practice of faithful stewardship, cheerful giving and sincere love through the grace of giving.

It is evident in Paul's teaching in 2 Cor 8 that the grace of giving is a practice that was strongly taught in the early churches in the New Testament Churches.

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

2 Cor 9:7, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

2 Cor 8:8, "I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love."

2 Cor 8:7, "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."

# 7. The practice of unreservedly helping the brethren and other churches.

Acts 4:34, "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold..."

2 Cor 8:14-15, "But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: as it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack."

2 Cor 9:12-13, "For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men...'

Acts 11:28-30, "And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

"Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul. KJV

We believe that the practice of helping others should be a diligent ministry of every New Testament Bible-believing church, however challenged they may be in their needs.

- to be continued -



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