

“Why Do Ye These Things?”— No. 3

Why Work In Religion As We Do?

Acts 14:15

Introduction:

- A. A valid question for apostles to ask.
 - 1. People tried to worship them as gods: Why? By what authority?
 - 2. People needed to think on this question?
- B. A good question for anyone to ask. (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15).
 - 1. Have asked: *Why do **Anything** in religion?*
 - 2. Have asked: *Why worship God as we do?*
 - 3. Will ask: *Why organize in religion as we do?*
 - 4. Are Asking: *Why work in religion as we do?*
- C. Our lesson: 3 areas of works assigned in Bible

Discussion:

- I. The Works We Do to Become Christians.**
 - A. Salvation is not without works of any kind. (Eph. 2:8-10; cf. Jn. 6:28,29).
 - B. Salvation is by a working faith. (Gal. 5:6; Mk. 16:15,16; Acts 2).
- II. The Works We Do as Individual Christians.**
 - A. Domestic duties. (1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Thess. 3:10; Eph. 6:1-4).
 - B. Civil duties. (Rom. 13:1-8; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).
 - C. Humanitarian duties. (Eph. 4:28; Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:26,27).
 - D. Spiritual duties. (Acts 8:4; Gal. 6:6).
 - E. Economic duties. (Eph. 4:48) — Needed to fulfil other duties.
- III. The Works We Do as a Church (Congregation).**
 - A. Evangelism—gospel preaching.
 - 1. Involves teaching the lost everywhere. (1 Tim. 3:15; Phil. 4)
 - 2. Involves edifying the saints. (cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-5)
 - a. Through a good teaching program.
 - b. Through worship activities.
 - B. Benevolence toward needy saints. (Act 6:11; 11:27-30; 1 Cor. 16:1; 2 Cor. 8&9).
 - 1. What about general benevolence?
 - 2. Why is it not the same as individual benevolence? (1 Tim. 5:16).
 - C. Unauthorized works many local churches do.
 - 1. Social meals and activities. (cf. 1 Cor. 11:22,34).
 - 2. Social and secular educational services.
 - 3. Recreational activities.
 - 4. Youth directors, etc.
 - 5. Some do it overtly, other covertly.
 - 6. What is wrong with such works?
 - a. Where is the Scripture? (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16).
 - b. Must find the *work* or the *worker* in scriptures.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us do God's work.
- B. Let us do it God's way.