I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the
house of the LORD – Psalm 122:1
The Northside church of Christ
25 Greenfield Pike, Hillsboro Oh. 45133 Ph. 937-393-3634
Visitors Welcomed!
Order of Services
Sunday
Bible Study 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am & 5:00 pm
Wednesday
Bible Study 7:00 pm
www.northsidehillsboro.com
Evangelist: Guillermo Alvarez

And Pray For One Another – James 5:16

Please keep in your prayers those who are having physical troubles and those who are

traveling. Also pray for the brethren that are shut-in:

Remember in your prayers:

The Prayer Offered In Faith Will Restore The One Who Is sick - James 5:15

"What We Have... Heard We Proclaim To You..."

1 John 1:3

Welcome to the Northside Church of Christ

"Opening And Alleging" Larry Ray Hafley

Christians often are criticized for "arguing and debating." Say our religious adversaries, "You people just want to stir up a fuss. You're not interested in anything except causing trouble and running down other churches." How shall we respond to this charge?

First, any reply will be seen as evidence of the charge, for to meet it, we must contend against it. So, our answers and arguments against it will be used as proof of their assertion.

Second, shall we say that those who make the accusation are only interested in running down those who run others down? Would that be a fair assessment of them? However, if the fact that we reason and present our position with scriptural arguments proves that we are only interested in "attacking others," would not their reasoning against us prove that they are only interested in attacking those who attack others?

Third, Jesus often "stirred up a fuss" and created controversy as he taught (Matt. 15:12; Lk. 4:28; 6:11; 13:17; Jn. 7:12, 43). Shall we say that is all he was "interested in"? The same is true with respect to the apostles and prophets of the New Testament (Acts 7; 9:29; 13:50-52; 17:2-10; 18:12; 19:23-29; 1 Thess. 2:2). Were they only seeking to "run down" idolatry and to "pick a fight" with unbelieving Jews?

Fourth, when those who make the charge against us seek to convert evolutionists, Muslims, Jews and other unbelievers, are they "only trying to cause trouble by running down the religion of other people"?

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Sic

Fifth, many people misunderstand what it means to "argue." It is assumed that an argument is always a negative thing. That is not necessarily true. Look in the dictionary. Synonyms of argue are "discuss," and "reason." Even now, these sentences are "arguing" the case for the meaning of the term, "argue." When some protest against our arguments, they are arguing against arguing.

Note, in particular, Acts 17:2, 3–"And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, *Opening and alleging*, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ." The New King James Version says Paul was "*explaining and demonstrating*." The New International Version says he was "*explaining and proving*." The New American Standard Bible says he was "*explaining and giving evidence*." In Acts 17, "Paul was bringing forward passages from 'the Scriptures'...to prove...that the Messiah had to suffer and be resurrected. Only then could he declare effectively that Jesus was really the Messiah" (Ralph Earle, *Word Meanings In The New Testament*, p. 113).

Here Paul was arguing his case. Did he do wrong? Because trouble arose, did Paul do wrong? Who will say he did? Likewise, today, when we "explain and prove," when we "explain and give evidence" for the method and purpose of baptism, or for the true nature and character of the work, worship, and organization of the church, and contrast the Bible order with that of churches built by men, why are we criticized and condemned for doing essentially what Paul did?

Finally, in the end, if we are doing right before God, it matters not what men may say. We have a duty to preach the word and to reprove and rebuke error (2 Tim. 4:2). Let us kindly answer our critics when we can, but let us not be deterred from our responsibility to "speak the things which befit sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1). "Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you" (Titus 2:15).

Evangelism Effort At The County Fair This Week.

This week we have a booth set up at the Highland County Fair. We are in space 134 of the Merchants Building. Anyone who would like to come and help are welcomed. We have 4 passes available so that you don't have to pay to enter. See Guillermo for information.

Sunday Morning Lesson

Topic: How can I apply this lesson to my life? _____