

Redundant Churches

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Recently I was reading an article in a British magazine that was talking about “redundant churches.” The article had reference to church buildings of various denominations that were no longer in use for religious services as there was no congregation meeting there. The Use of the word redundant is common in Great Britain. When a company needs to downsize it declares numbers of its workforce to be “redundant.” The workers are laid off as being “surplus to requirements.” Usually, there is a “severance package” that they are given to help them financially. However, as I thought about the term, redundant churches, some thoughts came to mind.

First, Jesus promised: “AND I SAY ALSO UNTO THEE, THAT THOU ART PETER, AND UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT” (**Matthew 16:18**). Jesus promised to build one church and only one. Thus any other church than that which Jesus built is “redundant.” It is not necessary and is “surplus to requirements.” Such would be true of each and every one of the thousands of man-made churches, each teaching and practicing different and contrary doctrines that are indeed not part of “THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS” (**Jude 3**). Just think what it would be like in each community if the only churches that existed were those that were faithful congregations of the Lord’s church. Jesus also taught: “EVERY PLANT WHICH MY HEAVENLY FATHER HATH NOT PLANTED, SHALL HE ROOTED UP” (Matthew 15:13). Thus, there will surely come a time when our Lord will declare each man-made church to be “redundant” and He will dispose of them at The Judgment.

Also, I thought about the fact that some congregations that were once faithful...are also “redundant.” They are “redundant” because they have ceased to be that city set on a hill (**Matthew 5:14**). They are no longer sending forth the pure light of the Gospel as they have espoused damnable error and no longer “EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS” (**Jude 3**). Over the last half century, there have been many congregations that once stood “FOUR SQUARE” for the Truth, but today reject the very Truth the congregation espoused when it was established. They are just like denominational churches in so many ways and no longer proclaim the pure Jerusalem Gospel.

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In recent years we have seen congregations that were recognized as bastions of Truth that have now turned from a faithful stand and are now fellowshiping the purveyors of error rather than exposing it. They would rather have fellowship with false teachers than with those who stand fast in the Truth they once espoused. Some have even withdrawn fellowship from faithful brethren who dare to stand against their perverted teachings. Sadly, some of these congregations... oversee schools of preaching. Thus they are turning out preachers who are not preaching all the truth and are fellowshiping error. These congregations, unless they repent, will all find that they have been declared “redundant” by the Lord: “DEPART FROM ME, YE THAT WORK INIQUITY” (**Matthew 7:23**).

Brethren, as a congregation, we need to be sure that we are faithful in our obligations to the Lord so that we will not be declared “redundant” by Him.