

FOLLOWING GOD'S PATTERN

A Study of the Institutional Issues



Roger Hillis

**Discussion of
Terms Used on
the Cover**

FOLLOWING GOD'S PATTERN

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What is a **“PATTERN”**

What is meant by the
term
“INSTITUTIONAL”

What is an **“ISSUE”**

How would you
describe the
**“AUTHORITY
of CHRIST”**

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Another Term not on
the Cover, but
necessary to our
understanding of the
ISSUES, is the word

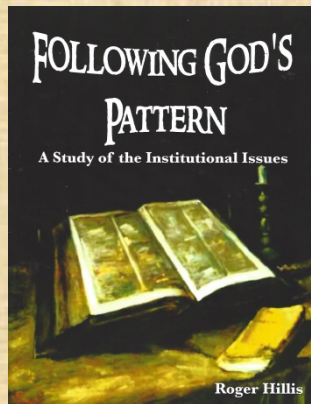
APOSTASY

What is Meant By This
Term?

Is This Word found in
The Bible?

Yes - In 3 Places

**Jer 8:5, Hos 14:4
2 Thess 2:3**



NT:646

apostasia (ap-os-tas-ee'-ah); feminine of the same as NT:647; defection from truth (properly, the state) ["apostasy"]:
KJV - falling away, forsake.

2 Thess 2:1-3

- 1** Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him,
- 2** that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
- 3** Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

NAS

Introduction

- ❖ There are 12 Lessons in the Workbook
- ❖ They are presented in a **Logical Order**
- ❖ Each Lesson **builds** on the Previous One
- ❖ Lesson Format: Narrative, Charts & Questions
- ❖ At times, additional PowerPoint material will be used
- ❖ I will serve as the class facilitator
- ❖ As such, my **HOPE** is:
 - That **each** of you will *read* and *study* each lesson
 - That you will *highlight* statements that are *important* to you
 - That **each** of you will *write out your answers* to each question
 - That you will *ask questions* if you do not understand the material
 - That you will ***question anything presented about which you disagree***

Table of Contents

- 1. Why Are We Divided?**
- 2. The Need for Bible Authority**
- 3. The Silence of the Scriptures**
- 4. The Church & the Individual**
- 5. The Work of the Local Church**
- 6. Scriptural Church Cooperation**

- 7. The Sponsoring Church Arrangement**
- 8. Institutionalism**
- 9. Local Church Autonomy**
- 10. The Extent of Benevolence**
- 11. Two Misunderstood Passages**
- 12. The Social Gospel**

Colleges

David Lipscomb – Nashville, TN

Abilene Christian – Abilene, TX

Freed-Hardeman – Henderson, TN

Harding College – Memphis, TN

Churches urged to support colleges from their treasuries:

A.C. Pullias - urged support for Lipscomb in 1947

N.B. Hardeman – claimed that church support for orphan homes and colleges stood or fell together. (1940's)

G.C. Brewer – known for his statement that “any church not helping ACC has the wrong preacher.” (1935-1945)

Guy N. Woods – claimed churches could support the Bible Department of the college.

Orphanages

Potter – Bowling Green, KY

Boles – Quinlan, TX

Tipton – Tipton, OK

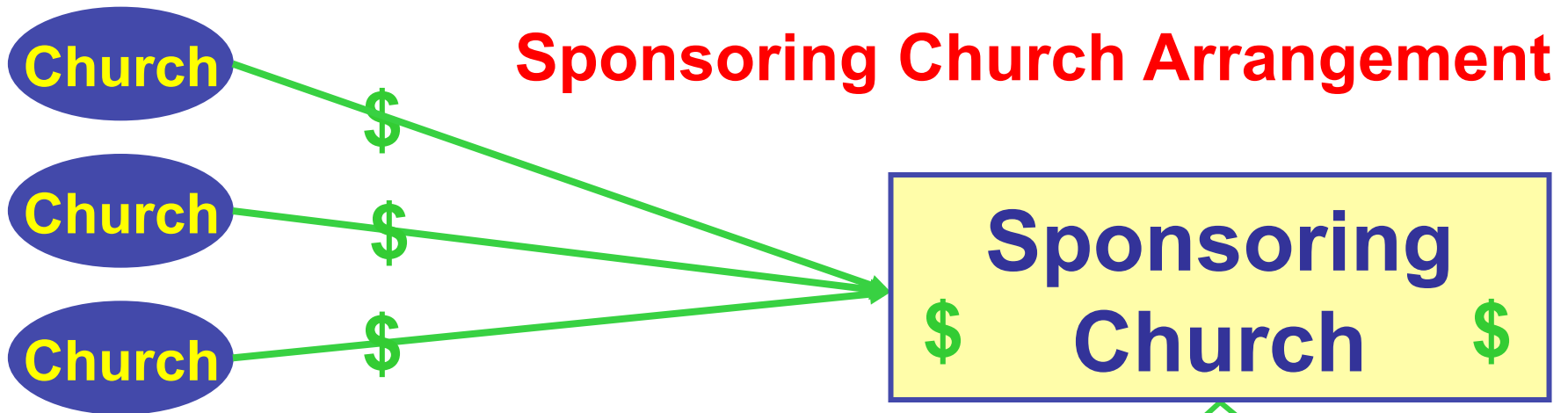
Tennessee – Spring Hill, TN

Churches urged to support orphanages from treasury:

- ***Emotional arguments*** – appeal to emotion, not Scriptures
- Men from Homes ***visited churches***, met after services with members; the work was discussed & some **private contributions** were collected.
- **Printed financial statements** from Homes ***listing churches, not individuals***, where money was collected.
- ***Falsely claimed*** that churches had been ***supporting*** them.
- Worked their way into ***some treasuries*** via **5th Sunday collection** or box in foyer

Church History

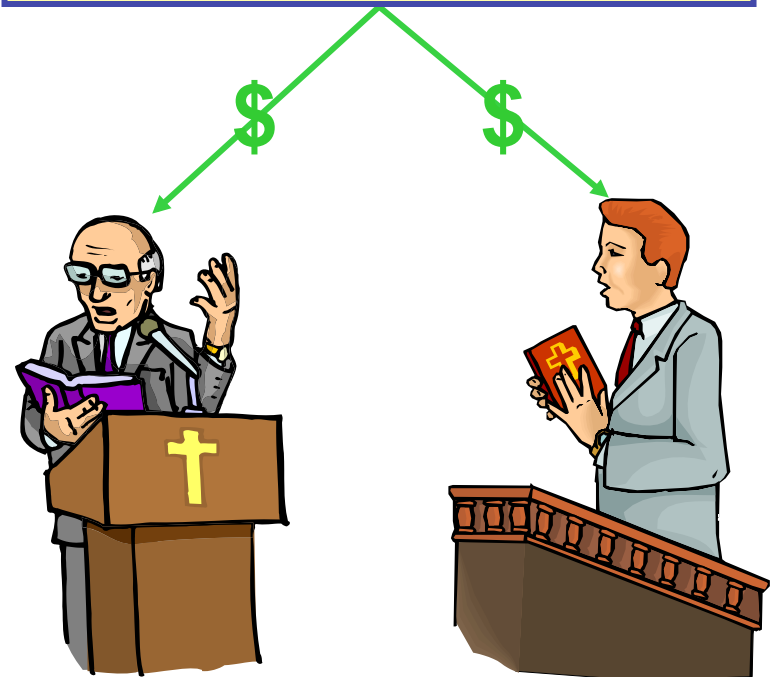
Apostasy Since 1906



Problem – No Authority!!!

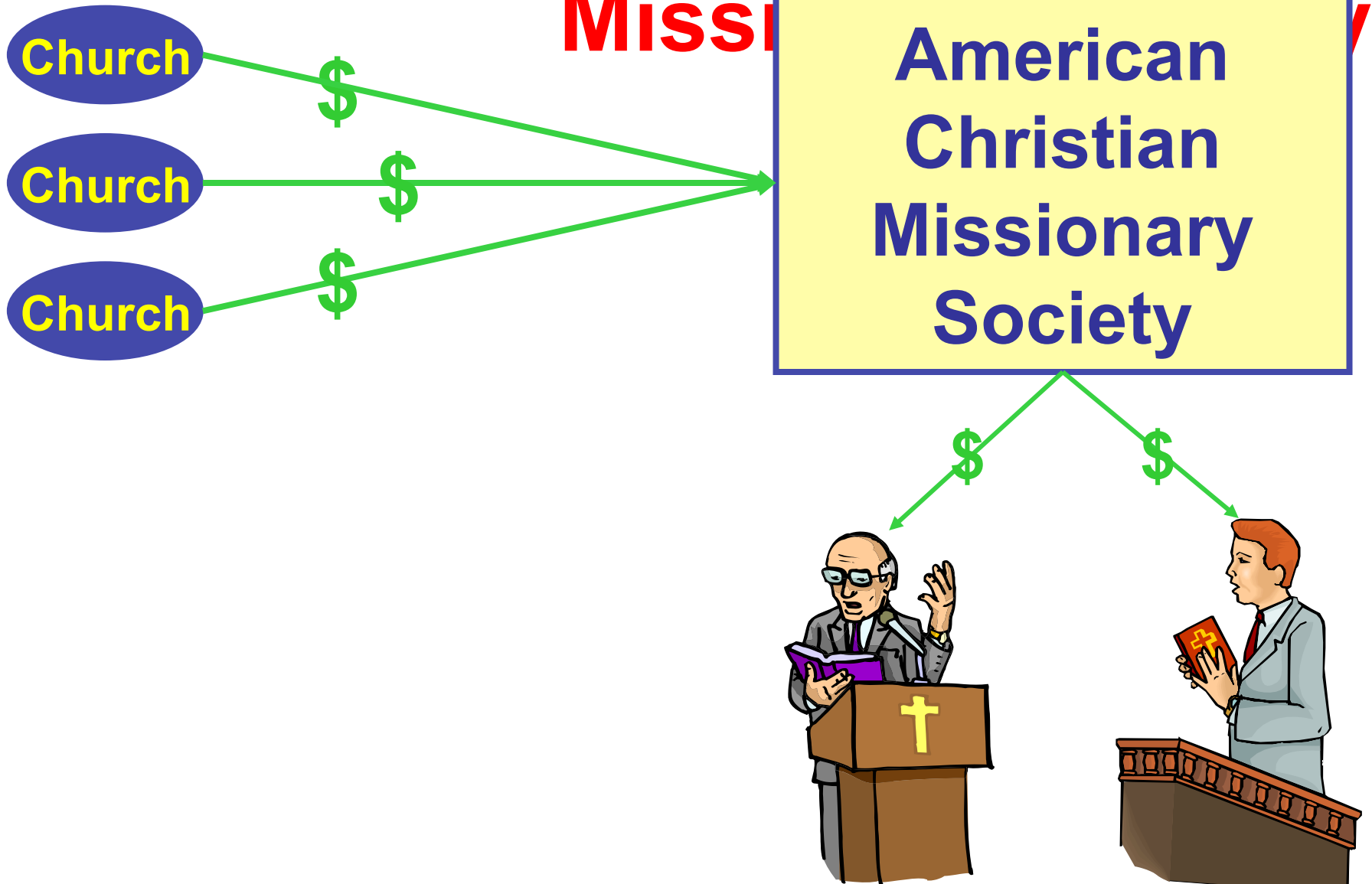
And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus... (Col. 3:17).

If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God...(1 Pet. 4:11).



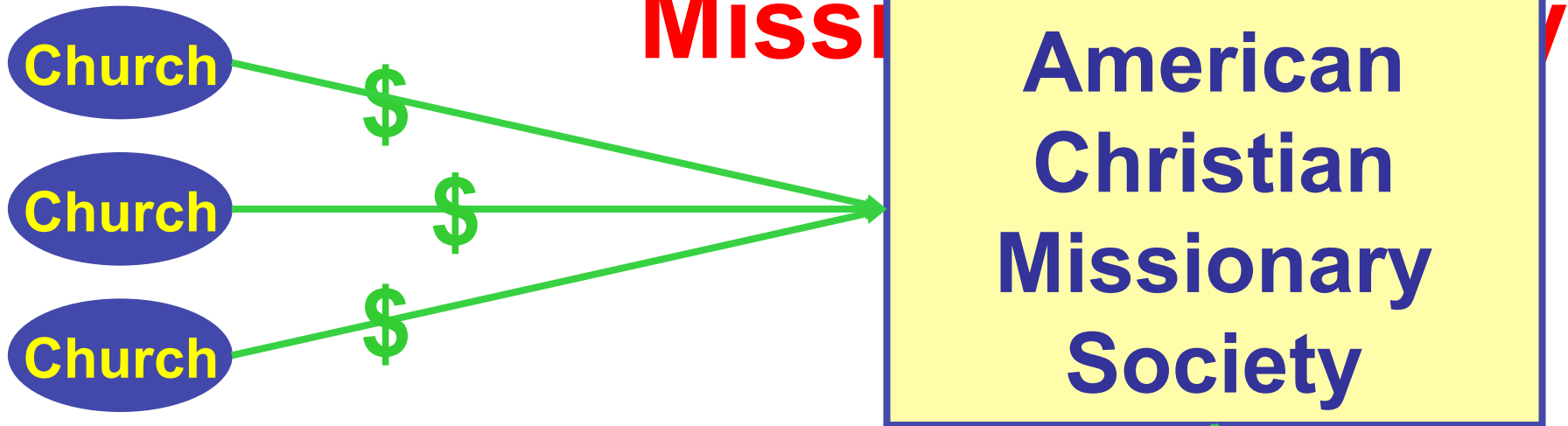
The American Christian

Missionary Society



The American Christian

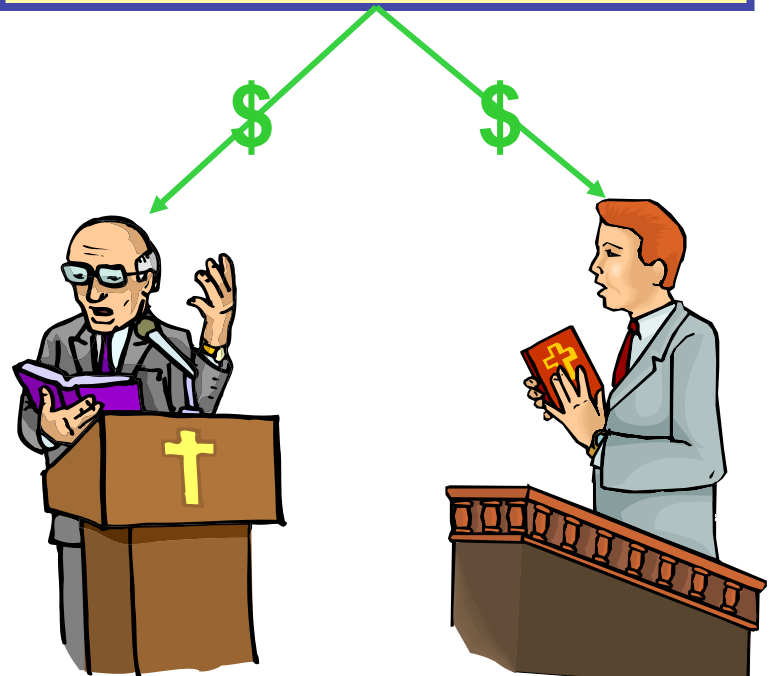
Missionary



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Preaching the Gospel in the First Century

Church

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Phil. 4:15-16



I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.

the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.

CHURCH

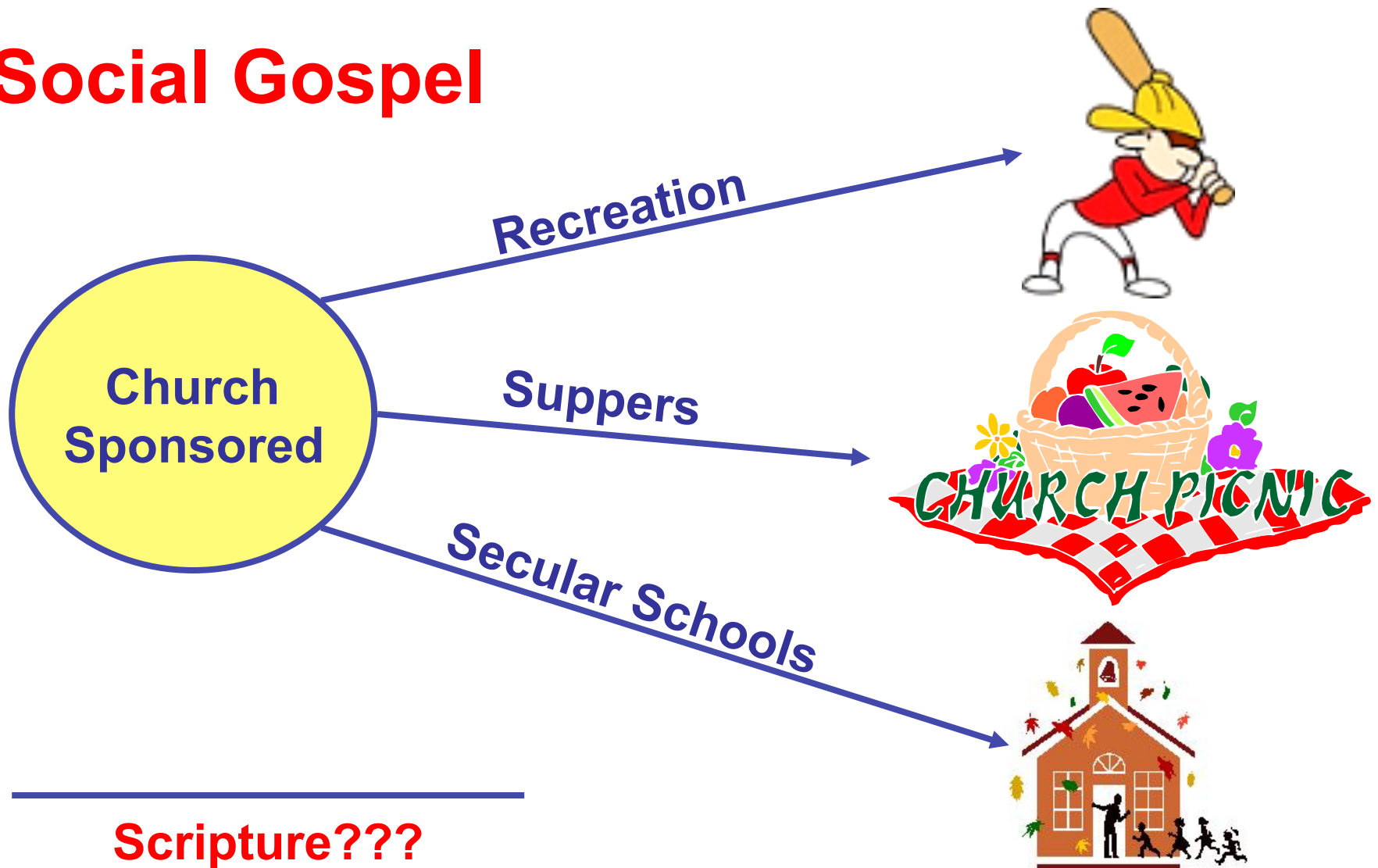
2 Cor. 11:8

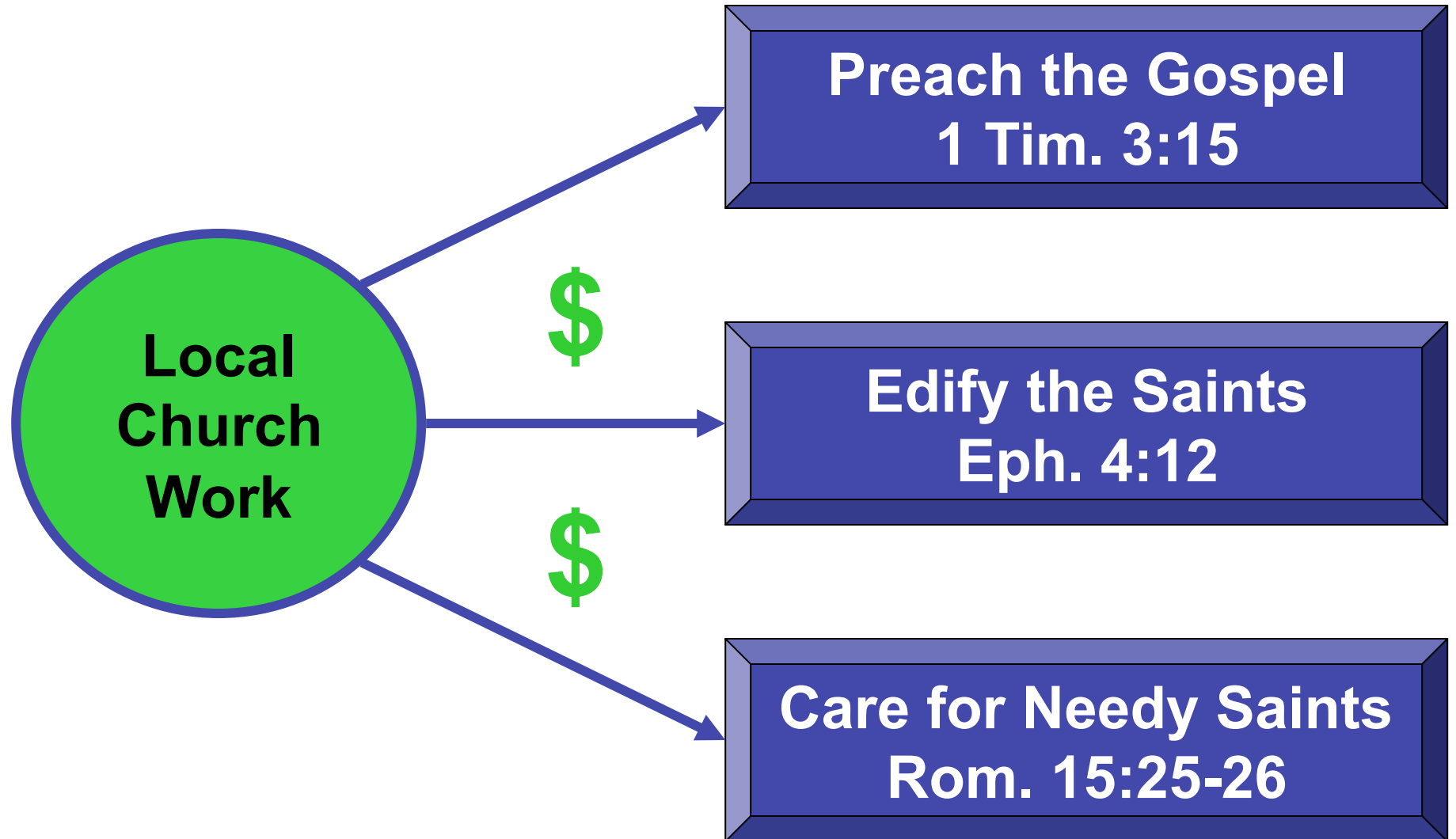


Church History

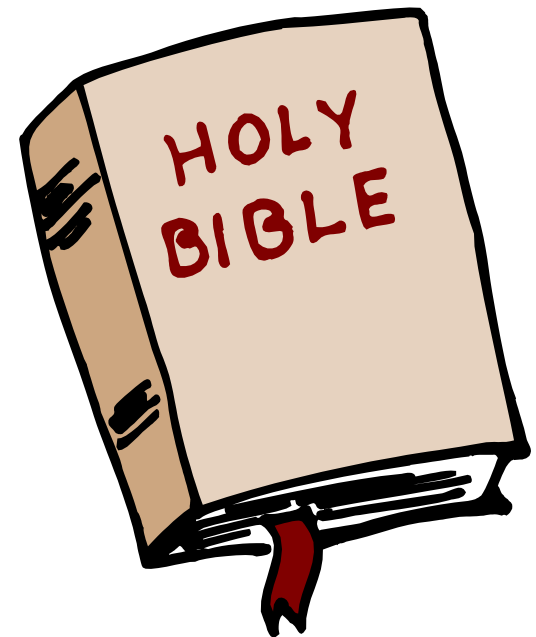
Apostasy Since 1906

Social Gospel



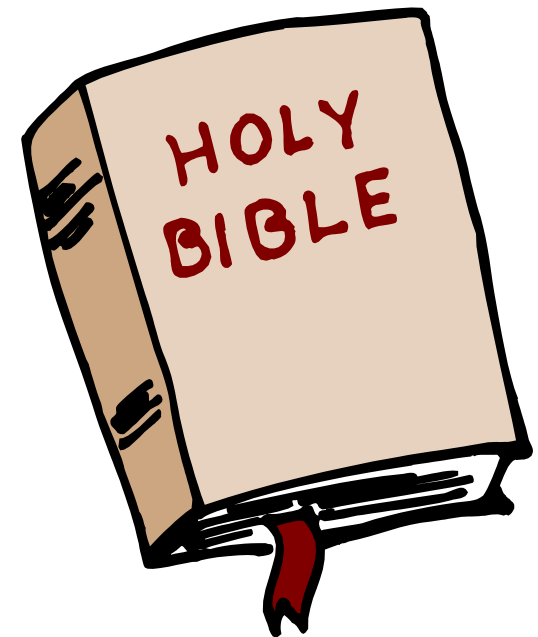


- **Basic attitudes toward authority – Liberal / Conservative**
- **Worldliness:**
 - **Immodesty, Mixed Swimming, Dancing**
 - **Social Drinking, Gambling, Lottery**
 - **Marriage Divorce and Remarriage**
- **Church Discipline**
- **Creation: Literal or Non-literal**
- **House church movement**
- **Fellowship of those who teach error**



Church History Modern Issues

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- Worldliness:
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House Church Movement

1. Operating without a building of its own, the Boston church rented facilities for meeting on the Lord's day.
2. Then they divided their membership into **house churches** for other meetings.
3. The elders **"delegated" authority to house church leaders to oversee these groups.** "Many of these 'house churches' have long ago outgrown the 'house' size, having as many as 250 members.
4. Therefore, the two elders of the Boston church, still headquartered in Lexington, are in essence, **"elders over a plurality of churches."**
5. The Boston leadership was **willing to lay aside** the biblical concept of **autonomy.**

*Truth Magazine – Mike Willis
April 1988*