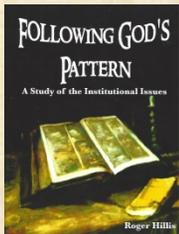


Lesson 12

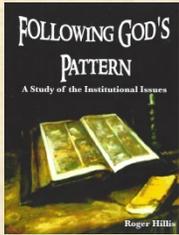
The Social Gospel



Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

Introduction

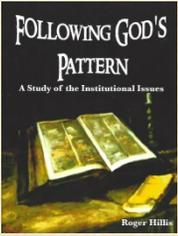
1. Does the Lord's church have any **social agenda**?
2. Certainly, early Christians spent a lot of time together in **various homes**. (Acts 2:46, Rom 12:13, 1 Pet 4:9)
 - *But did the early church **sponsor** those social get-togethers?*
 - *Or were they simply a **function or extension** of the Christian's **home life**?*
3. Did Jesus die on the cross so His followers **could play softball** on a **church sponsored** team?
4. Did the Son of God leave heaven so women could get together and **exercise in a church gymnasium**?
5. Is the **purpose of Christianity** to provide a **hot meal** for disciples on a regular basis?



Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

The Work of the Church, Again

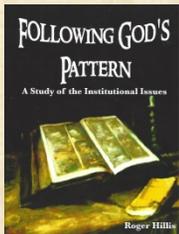
1. It is vitally important that we remember ***what is and what is not*** the work of the local church.
2. There are ***many activities*** that ***are not a part*** of a local church that are commonly practiced by religious denominations & ***some churches of Christ***.
3. Following are some examples:
 - ***Day care centers***
 - ❖ Child care ***is to be provided by the home***. It is not the job of the church to babysit people's children for them.
 - ❖ This activity **is not sinful** in and of itself. But where is the passage that says this is ***something the local church should do?***



Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

The Work of the Church, Again

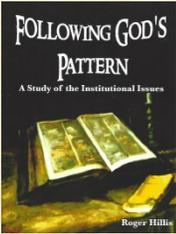
- **Secular schools**
 - ❖ The ***work of the church is spiritual***, not secular.
 - ❖ Churches may be referred to as schools ***in the sense*** that they provide learning for students.
 - ❖ But the **subject taught by the church** is ***the word of God***, not reading, writing, arithmetic, science, history or literature. (*Matt 28:18-20; Eph 4:11-16; 1 Tim 3:15*)
 - ❖ But many denominations **provide such programs**; even ***some churches of Christ***.
 - ❖ All who practice such operate ***outside of Christ's authority***.



Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

The Work of the Church, Again

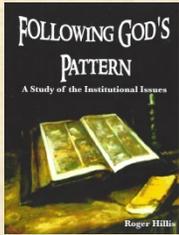
- **Food & Fun**
 - ❖ Denominations and ***institutional churches of Christ*** **socialize church services and church work** by having fellowship halls, designating social hours, serving refreshments, etc., ***during Bible classes and between Bible classes and worship.***
 - ❖ Paul **condemned such social practices** in 1 Cor 11:17-34; he **criticized** the Corinthian church for making a ***common meal*** out of the Lord's Supper.
 - He told them in verse 22 ***“Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?”*** In verse 34 he adds ***“But if any one is hungry, let him eat at home”***.
 - In Rom 14:17 Paul said “ . . . ***the kingdom of God is not food and drink,*** but righteousness and peace and joy.”



Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

The Work of the Church, Again

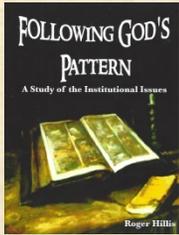
- **Ball Teams/Sports Events**
 - ❖ It is ***not the business or work of the church*** to provide or serve as a guide in recreational activity.
 - ❖ **Church sponsored** basketball teams, skating parties, swimming parties, ping pong facilities and the like ***are a perversion of the work of the church.***
 - ❖ It isn't the ***business of the church*** to provide entertainment or recreation.
- **Social Activities for Young People**
 - ❖ A lot of people today ***“choose a church”*** based the **social activities** it provides for their young people.
 - ❖ The ***church is spiritual***; it is the **duty of parents** to provide social activities for their children.



Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

The Work of the Church, Again

- **Advancing Political Causes**
 - ❖ Political issues **do not belong** in the church.
 - ❖ God **ordained civil government** to meet all such issues and resolve them. (*Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13-17*)
 - ❖ The **problem is** that some denominations and **churches of Christ** have gotten involved in **activities** that have **nothing to do** with the NT pattern.
 - ❖ Thus **society** has come to expect **all churches to offer** these kinds of programs.
 - ❖ And **some brethren** wanting to be **“like the nations around them”** have adopted them without **biblical authority**.



Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

The Bible and Social Change

Does the Bible Promote Social Change?

1. The Bible teaches that *the primary work of the church* is the **saving of souls** and this is done by preaching and teaching of the gospel of Christ. Note Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 6:9-11.

Rom 1:16

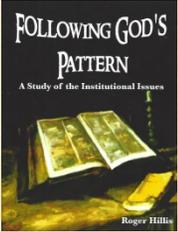
16 For I am ***not ashamed of the gospel of Christ***, for it is the **power of God to salvation** for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. NKJV

1 Cor 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that the ***unrighteous will not inherit*** the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived.** Neither ***fornicators***, nor ***idolaters***, nor ***adulterers***, nor ***homosexuals***, nor ***sodomites***,

10 nor ***thieves***, nor ***covetous***, nor ***drunkards***, nor ***revilers***, nor ***extortioners*** will ***inherit the kingdom of God.***

11 And such were some of you. But you were **washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. NKJV



Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

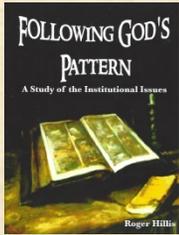
The Bible and Social Change

Does the Bible Promote Social Change?

1. The bible teaches that ***the primary work of the church*** is the **saving of souls** and this is done by preaching and teaching of the gospel of Christ. **Note Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 6:9-11.**
2. In support of **1 Cor 6:9-11**, when the Corinthians were ***converted by the gospel***, they gave up their **sinful practices**

- Fornicators & adulterers gave up their ***immorality***
- Idolaters quit worshipping ***false gods***
- Homosexuals gave up their ***illicit relationships***

- Thieves quit ***stealing***
- The greedy changed their ***covetous hearts***
- Drunkards ***stopped*** drinking
- Revilers and extortioners ***abandoned*** their wicked ways

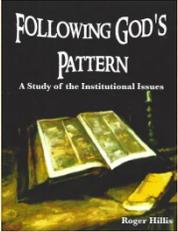


Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

The Bible and Social Change

Does the Bible Promote Social Change?

3. But it wasn't because the **early church** set up social organizations to ***provide counseling for the ungodly***.
4. It is the ***power of the gospel that changes lives***, not some **church sponsored** social agenda.
5. There are **numerous Bible subjects** that have both a ***social and moral*** application. Abortion, drinking, family life, pornography, sexual immorality, etc..
6. These subjects ***must be preached on*** so that people can ***learn God's will*** on the **moral issues of today**.
7. But the church must be careful in allowing ***society to dictate*** popular **social acceptance** among its membership.

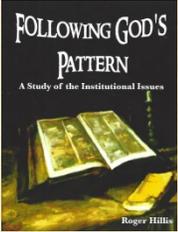


Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

A Step Toward Modernism

What is Modernism?

1. The **belief** that one **should rely** on **human wisdom** as opposed to God's revelation in Scripture.
2. Modernism is an attempt to fuse **Biblical teaching** with modern **philosophical and scientific** learning. Thus the Bible is **made to conform** to the **new culture**.
3. These modernists have **abandoned any pretense** that the **gospel message of the Bible** will convert people to Christ.
4. They believe that they must **offer social activities** as a part of the **work of the local church** to keep people coming.
5. Further, modernists **have abandoned** their belief in the **authority of the holy scriptures** in favor of this new culture.



Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

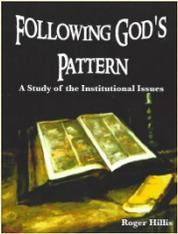
A Step Toward Modernism

6. They have abandoned *to this new culture* such things as:

- Belief in the **authority** of the Holy Scriptures
- **Inspiration** of the Scriptures
- The unique **deity** of Christ
- The biblical **miracles**
- The **atonement** for sin
- The **bodily** resurrection

- The **individual** resurrection of the **saints**
- The **second coming** of Christ unto **final judgement**
- **Heaven** and **Hell**
- Every **evidence** of the **supernatural** elements of the Christian faith

Thus the **mind of man** was made the
court of **final appeal**

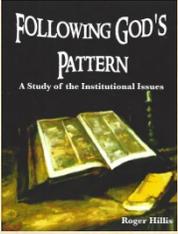


Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

The Use of the Church Building

Where is the Authority for Owning a Church Building?

1. The **only authority** for owning a church building is to **provide a place** to do what the **Lord commands the church to do**.
2. In **Hebrews 10:25** we are taught that the **church is to assemble** together for worship and a **place is authorized in that command**.
3. One **institutional church** stated “*Church buildings exist as tools for people to use in the pursuit of a better life*”. They listed such **weekly activities** as Co-dependency Survivors, Room in the Inn, Ladies Exercise Group, Alcoholics Anonymous, Alanon, Divorce Recovery Group, Children’s Tutoring, Adult Education, Christian Singles, and Narcotics Anonymous.
4. **Where in the Bible** would you find that these **group oriented activities** are to be provided by the local church?

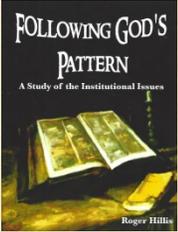


Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

The Use of the Church Building

Where is the Authority for Owning a Church Building?

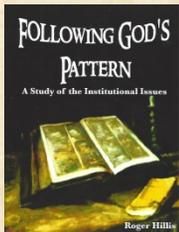
5. First of all, the church building, *paid for with the Lord's money*, is to be used *to accomplish His will*. If these activities are scriptural, **where does the Bible say so?**
6. Secondly, the real issue is does God *want His church* to be involved in these things? If He wants them involved, *where did He say so?*
7. Thirdly, church buildings are not tools to help *people live a better life*.
8. Rather, church buildings are tools to be used to help people in *pursuit of eternal life* with God in heaven.
9. That's *what the church* is all about!



Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

The Whole Man

1. The **argument** is often made that the *church has a duty* to minister to the *“whole man”*
2. . . .and that this responsibility **would include** his *social needs* as well as his *spiritual needs*.
3. Sounds good – but where does the *Bible teach that*?
4. The **church has a duty** to *worship God* and to *save souls*.
5. If there is an obligation **to the whole man**, where has God *revealed that* to us?
6. Our duty is *to find God’s will* and **do that**.
7. Nothing more and nothing less.



Lesson 12 - The Social Gospel

Conclusion

1. The real **problems** of the world *are spiritual*.
2. The **local church** is *God's organization* for dealing with such problems
3. . . . and the **gospel of Christ** is the means He has given us with which to *confront them*.
4. Other organizations are **addressing the social problems of our day** using *every conceivable resource*.
5. It is urgent that we *not allow ourselves* to be distracted from our *unique mission* nor disillusioned with *God's unique method*.



Lesson 12 - Question 3

Rom 14:17

17 for the **kingdom of God** is not *eating and drinking*, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

NAS

Lesson 12 - Question 4

John 6:1-14

1 After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias).

2 And a *great multitude* was **following Him**, because they were *seeing the signs* which He was performing on those who were sick.

3 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.

4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.

5 Jesus therefore lifting up His eyes, and *seeing that a great multitude* was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to *buy bread, that these may eat?*"

Lesson 12 - Question 4

John 6:1-14

6 And this He was saying **to test him**; for *He Himself knew* what He was intending to do.

7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii *worth of bread* is **not sufficient for them**, for everyone to *receive* a little."

8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,

9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for *so many people*?"

10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the **men sat down**, in number *about five thousand*.

Lesson 12 - Question 4

John 6:1-14

11 Jesus therefore **took the loaves**; and having given thanks, He distributed to *those who were seated*; likewise **also of the fish as much as they wanted**.

12 And when *they were filled*, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments that nothing may be lost."

13 And so they gathered them up, and **filled twelve baskets** with fragments from the *five barley loaves*, which were left over by those who had eaten.

14 When therefore the *people saw the sign* which He had performed, they said, "This is of a truth *the Prophet* who is to come into the world."

NAS