

WHAT IF?

It is helpful to ponder our possibilities, to wrestle with the “what ifs” we may well face at some future point in time. Given the momentous changes being promoted among our churches by the agents of change, every Christian must think now of how he will respond when the demands for these changes come to the doorstep of his congregation?.

* What if men arise teaching that our traditional views about instrumental music in worship are only matters of personal preference or our brotherhood traditions? That it would be acceptable to use the instrument under certain conditions?

* What if some begin to say that “in spite of what Paul wrote in I Timothy 2:11-12 and I Corinthians 14:34, women can teach, preach and lead in the worship of the public assemblies of the church?

* What if some should teach that despite our past thinking, churches of Christ are really nothing but a denominational and a poor one at that?

* What if someone came teaching that all denominations are part of Christ’s universal church and that all are acceptable to him?

* What if some one questioned that the Bible is our absolute authority and that it certainly is not a pattern for us to follow?

* What if some one began to promote the observance of the Lord’s Supper on other days than the Lord’s Day and on such occasions as weddings and funerals. What if they observe it as a joyful celebratory feast rather than as a sacred memorial of Christ’s death?

* What if some began to teach that sinners are saved by grace through faith before they are baptized and that baptism only declares the fact that they have been previously saved?

These are not far-fetched speculations. All of the above plus many other innovations are currently being promoted by the champions of change. Already many of our large, influential churches have embraced some or all of them. Already this movement is active throughout the entire nation and in some of our mission outposts. It is only a matter of time until one of its proponents will show up in your midst.

Now is the time to ponder “Should these issues arise where I worship, how will I respond? Will I pretend it is not really so serious? Will I be open to a compromise position with the new ideas? Or will I stand up for the Master and be strong for his way and his teaching (Phil 1:16)? Will I have the courage to do the right thing even if I must stand alone? If error is triumphant, will I walk away from the congregation where for years I have worshiped and served Him? As you rest your head on your pillow tonight, ponder these thoughts.... “What if? What if? What if?” JHW