

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY THE EXECUTIONER

There was a strange custom practiced in England 500 years ago. Those condemned to death were expected to pay their executioner for his work. There was a practical aspect to this bizarre custom. It encouraged the messenger of death to dispatch his victim one swift, clean blow of his ax.

Today we see congregations being systematically destroyed by preachers who are imposing their agenda of change upon them. Given time, this will surely result in the death of those congregations as "churches of Christ." Rather than a swift, deft blow, it will be a long and tortuous death, lasting months or even years before the end is reached.

While the custom of paying the executioner has long since vanished, many Christians continue to pay those who are destroying their congregations. They see the damage being inflicted. They are upset and offended at the changes imposed, but still they give their generous gifts to support the very men who are inflicting the blows that are destroying the church they love.

In many cases a brother or sister may have no voice in what is being done. Their elders don't listen to them. Their preachers do not care what they think. Thoughtless fellow-members are eagerly rushing into oblivion in their pursuit of something new and different. We don't have to reward our executioners!

The faithful disciple is not without means to express his/her unhappiness:

- * Your contributions. Don't contribute to those who are harming the church you love. Give to Christian causes you know are pursuing and promoting god's will. Vote with your pocketbook.
- * Refuse to support Christian projects that are no longer faithful to God's word. The radio and TV ministry known as the Herald of Truth once faithfully preached the gospel of Christ to a lost world. As the original leaders of that Highland Church of Christ in Abilene passed away, those who replaced them lost their way. That church is now caught up in the change movement. Their broadcast ministry no longer serves the Lord's Cause as it once did. We should not support it.
- * Do not support, recommend, or send your children to Christian Schools who have abandoned the goal of restoring the apostolic faith. Seek out those schools still faithful to their founders' intent and direct your support to them.
- * Do not encourage and lend your support to lectureships, worships and forums featuring those who are no longer friends of Christ's church. Your presence increases the value of their worthless stock.
- * You need not stay with a congregation that has abandoned the faith of Christ for a new gospel. Vote with your feet. Find a faithful church and cast your lot with them. There you can truly worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). There you can honor God as he has directed and feel happy, contented and satisfied for having done so. If no sound church is within driving distance, seek out other Bible-loving souls and start a congregation that will be what Christ expects it to be. Meet in your home, or a rented facility. The Lord will bless your efforts and reward you for keep the candle of faith burning brightly in your community.

Promoters of change will doubtless succeed in destroying numerous congregations before this painful conflict is over, but they should have to do their destructive work with out the financial support of those they are harming (II John 9-11). Refuse to pay the executioners! JHW