

Old union ministers School

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Altar work, how should we behave ourselves?

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Lesson text = 1Ti. 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

I'm surprised at how quick some of our older solders of the cross forget how we function around the altar gives off the wrong teachings to younger Christians. 2Ti 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

I want to begin this lesson with a plea, please don't jump to conclusions before I have an opportunity to explain myself. There are some opinions that differs around the altar that I don't understand, and I am not here to pick or start an argument with anyone. I can only go by my feelings and the Holy scriptures.

Altar = an altar in our ranks is referred to a place where the human family can approach God for life and salvation.

My first question is how much can we say to people who are outside of the ark of safety? I really think proper behavior is extremely important in the work of God, especially when it comes to altar work. If we aren't careful, we will get in Gods' way.

I have a deep burden for these people young and old but I for some reason when working around the altar, I have a fear of being rejected, or may be the old Devil is trying to throw me a roadblock. I then have

another fear and that being, if I don't say what God puts on my heart, their blood could be required at my hands.

I think when a lost sinner has been convicted, and I mean convicted by the Holy Spirit of their sinful condition before God, I think they deserve the right to be left alone with God while they seek the salvation of their soul. If I am too reserved around the altar when sinners are seeking salvation, I might appear a little too reserved and I also know that at this time it's obvious, but I am pulled between two thoughts. If I say something and interfere with the connection that they have with the Lord, their blood could be required at my hands. To many times honest hearts have been deceived with words from honest people who mean no harm. Sometimes we as humans just simply get in too big of a hurry, and when we do, we make mistakes, and we could cause somebody to miss Heaven.

For myself, I would rather wait and seek the advice of the Lord because we are dealing with the eternal work of God. It's nothing to play games with and I don't think anybody that we know thinks of it as games, but if we aren't careful, we will get in Gods' way of doing something that only God can do.

One other thing that really upsets me is when it comes to little children. Their small minds are so innocent. They can be talked into almost anything when the wrong thing is said to them by the wrong person. These fundamentalists teach the only thing one has to do is believe and they are saved. Folks according to Gods' holy writings, there are some very important prerequisites that must take place before one can believe. People I have seen some of this stuff happen by gentle persuasion and then another one gets deceived by merely accepting Christ or making a decision. Brothers when and if you see something

like this happening where you attend church, call their hand and put a stop to it.

I believe it's important to build a prayer wall around people that are seeking the Lord. Singing is very appropriate during altar work and it gives the sinner more time to talk to the Lord. The lost person must be given all the time they need to get things settled with God, and I mean with God because you can't rush the timing of the Lord. Sinners can only be saved when God draws them to his side. The work of God is very precise and without error, and it leaves no room for the fallible hand of man.

The human family can do nothing to save themselves, it's all by the saving grace of God. This is a gift that we didn't deserve, but God made it available to everyone. This is all made possible when proper altar work prevails. Grace won't work when the wrong receipt is brought into the function of salvation. That is why, and I emphasize the importance of proper altar work.

The ingredients placed into God's receipt by human hands is tainted with error, and this causes God's free gift to be no longer free, works was added by man. I see this just about everywhere I go. What can be done to rectify this hurtful situation which is causing lost people to take this so-called easy road to destruction. Who is responsible for allowing this heresy to prevail in our old-time God established churches'?

Brother's, I know that you are not allowing this to go on where you are pastoring but it's knocking on your doors. Folks we are living in perilous times and the church is the bull's eye for Satan's fiery darts.

I live in an area where I am isolated from sound churches by several miles and these heresies have invaded the places of worship here. Most all of the church leaders here seem to only have partial truth when asked question about altar work. So many people have jumped the fence and

accepted this doctrine of whatever works; folks you and I have come to far to turn back now, I would rather die lonely with the truth rather than to live and support a lie.

I have my own feelings about the deficiencies in our old-time churches, and I am confident about one thing, I believe it started when man tried to simplify the plan of salvation and obstructing proper altar work.

Numerous places that I visit don't have an altar and if they do, I have never seen it used. Brothers please don't judge me too harshly, but the old devil knows that he has a short time to do his work and he is coming after us with all of his deceptive doctrines.

The pastors of these so-called churches will usually take the seeker down the Roman road, but folks how can a sinner repent by just making a mental decision, and how can they repent without a Godly sorrow. And where is faith in this educated decision-making process. Brothers I believe a wayfaring person and a fool could tell the difference. These people and perhaps some of them are yours' and mine are going to hell and it is mainly because of poor altar work. It is a very dangerous thing to the workings of God without visiting our altar place and then waiting for God's leadership. I would love to see a hundred or more saved on Sunday morning, but I want no part of deception to obtain that number.

This is my thinking, if it is right to push sinners to make a decision, show me in the holy book of God where it tells us to do that. This is something between the sinner and God. It's not something between the sinner and man. Man has assumed too much authority and corrupted good altar work at the expense of the eternal loss of a human soul. Folks we used to have some proficient watchdogs in our altar places and we still need them.



For some reason, it's in our nature to want to rush things, but this is the work of man, this is not the divine work of God, and God moves in every situation when he can get the most honor and glory for himself. When we as his children will work around the altar wither it be by song or prayer, God will do his part when it pleasing him.

God is watching us as we function in the altar work and it's important enough to seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit when and if I do or say anything to a seeker. It would be awful if I should say something to a sinner with my blunders of speech and cause someone to believe them and die in their sins.

Somewhere down the lane of life, we lost touch with God when it comes to proper altar work; here is where I think it started. Men love the attention of others in the church, and I have heard them say it, boy he is good in the altar and that encourages them to push harder and harder. This builds the ego of man, and causes them to get too aggressive in altar work. I think this a dangerous action. They have convinced themselves by the prompting of ignorant voices rather than listing to the voice of the Holy Spirit for direction and really, they have made fools of themselves with aggressive altar work. Is this right?

I know that if we would do some serious soul searching, I know the Lord would let us know exactly what the proper way would be for Christians to function around the altar. The Lords' way is not like our way, and here is where the difficulty begins. God is not going to bend to satisfy us and I wish we could all realize that early in life because we are teaching them who will be following behind us. What kind of altar work will be preformed if we fail to teach them now? I don't want God to bend for me nor anyone else because it would destroy his perfection.

I don't know if I have seen or read about everything under the sun concerning altar work, but to mention two or three, signing a card,

making a decision, accepting Christ, A body rub, baptism, a name on a church register. A great number of people are trusting in all of these false hoods of salvation and sad to say they are going to miss heaven. I don't know what is wrong with hearing the gospel, getting under conviction, feeling that Godly sorrow, repenting through humble prayer to the great God of salvation, and getting saved by the grace of God. I don't know what is wrong with that.

Altar work and I do mean proper altar work is where my journey with God and no one offered me any of these alternate ways of deception. What I got on the altar at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus Indiana that night on the seventeenth night of September 1969 about nine thirty that night was real. I sure am glad for the watch dogs who cared enough about my soul to create a protection around me. He didn't stand there and bark or growl, he just kept the enemy away. This is because of proper altar work.

In closing, I am the proud grandfather of eight grand- children and twelve great grand-children, I have eight grandchildren and three of them are still walking in the world lost. I want to try my best and by your help and the help of God, make it possible for each of them and yours to have the opportunity to kneel down on an old-time altar somewhere and seek the Lord until they find him. I don't know if God will give me enough time and strength to see them saved, but if I have gone on to meet my reward, I trust that you my brothers will watch and protect the altars in a proper manner. By this your kindred and mine can pray until they find their way home.