**What Is The Power?**

H.M. Phillips, Gospel Advocate – 6/30/1935

When the church has to resort to ball games, feasts and picnics to keep up interest in the work, it seems that the gospel has about lost its power there. Could you imagine Paul at Ephesus as a located preacher having ball games, banquets and other worldly affairs to keep the men, women and young people interested in the church? I fear that some are borrowing so much from the denominations that they will be a long time in paying back. Now, as the gospel is the power of God for salvation, all these things may be the power for something, but not for salvation, nor to God. If the gospel will not hold people for the Lord, then nothing else will, **Romans 1:16**.

**It Was Donated By Individuals**

Frank Himmel – Westview Bulletin

The New Testament does not authorize sharing common meals as part of a local church’s collective function. To the contrary, **1 Corinthians 11:22, 34** clearly assign that to the home, not the church. Additionally, **Acts 2:46** illustrates that taking meals together was a “house to house” activity for first century Christians. If eating such meals is not part of our collective work, it is obvious that a church providing facilities in which to eat is equally unauthorized. Renaming such facilities “fellowship hall” or “family life centers” instead of kitchens and dining halls changes nothing!

Many brethren who have these facilities and activities feel little need to justify them Biblically. Along with a host of other things unknown in the New Testament, they are swept in by the broom of attracting more people, good works, etc. Others, a bit more cautious about the necessity of Bible authority, offer various rationales. One I have heard of several times lately is this: the kitchen equipment was donated by individuals, not paid for from the church’s treasury.

This reminds me of an incident a number of years ago. A deacon and I went to see a woman who had visited our services. She was struck by the fact that we did not have instrumental music, assumed it was because we could not afford it, and offered to buy us a piano! We declined, of course, explaining the Biblical principles involved. But what if she had donated a piano? Would it have been okay to use it because it was not paid for out of the church’s treasury?

What is the practical difference between someone giving cash on a Sunday and a church going and buying a stove with it versus that individual buying the stove and donating it to the church? Either way it is the church’s stove, to be used in its facility, in an actively advertised under the name, with the approval of its leaders, for the enjoyment of its members – an activity that is just as unauthorized as ever!

If several of our young mothers installed some playground equipment at the building, took turns watching each other’s children here all day, put a notice about it on the bulletin board, and invited others to drop off their kids as well, would anyone honestly try to say the church was not in the day care business simply because the equipment was not paid for out of the church’s treasury?

The hollowness of this rationalization ought to be self-evident. Such arguments would never be made if we would be content to live by Bible authority.