

I FEAR FOR THE CHURCH TODAY (2)

J. C. Choate

(continued from last week)

I don't want to be negative, but at the same time I don't want to close my eyes to reality. There are some exceptions to the things that I have pointed out [last week's article ~ LD], but many congregations and individual members fall into these categories. I know this is true because of the comparative little we are doing at home and away from home to evangelize the world.

If what I have said is not true of you or the congregation of which you are a part, then that is wonderful, and I congratulate you! You must surely be a growing group! If these things do not apply in your case, ignore them, and be thankful. But what about all of those around you and across the brotherhood? Have you seen and heard what is going on, or perhaps I should say, the little that is going on? No, I am not down on the church. I do not believe that it is dead. And neither have I given up on the church, nor will I ever give up on it. I do know, however, that we are at a low point, shrinking in numbers, that we have many problems before us, and that we must be honest with ourselves and recognize these, seeking solutions, before anything will get better.

Perhaps not all of our brethren will do this, and perhaps many congregations will continue in indifference, on the road to apostasy. But where does that leave us, you and me? It leaves us with the fact that, whether anyone else does anything or not, we must not succumb and be like them. Rather, as individuals and as congregations, we must make up our minds that we are going to be faithful to God and do the work He has left us in the world to do. If we will, perhaps we can encourage our brethren around us to follow our examples, and we can also be instrumental in carrying the Gospel to the rest of the world. Remember, the Lord has never looked to the majority to carry out His will, but to the few who have decided to put Him first in their lives and in the work that He has given them to do.

This article was written about 25 years ago. The church of our Lord was much larger and stronger back then. But apparently not much has changed because the things that were described in this article are still very prevalent today and the church continues to dwindle. I, like brother Choate, fear for the church today. Do you? Perhaps, if his admonition is repeated some will wake up and answer the call. In the words of Fanny J. Crosby, "To the work! To the work! We are servants of God, let us follow the path that our Master hath trod; with the balm of His counsel our strength to renew, let us do with our might what our hands find to do." – Larry DeLong