

“ANCIENT LANDMARKS”

The wise King Solomon gave his nation the following command, “Do not remove the ancient landmark, which your fathers have set” (Prov 22:28; 23:10). The preservation of property rights was as important then as it is today. But is there a spiritual application to his words? Do Christians have “landmarks” that should never be removed?

Paul wrote, “...keep the *traditions* just as I delivered them to you” (1 Cor 11:2), and “...stand fast and hold the *traditions* which you were taught...” (2 Thess 2:15). These “traditions” were not of human origin, they originated with Jesus Christ, they were later taught by the apostles and finally written down in the New Testament (John 16:13-15; Heb 2:3; Acts 2:42; Eph 3:3-4; 1 Cor 4:6; 2 Pet 1:1-4). Here are just a few examples of “ancient landmarks”.

A plurality of qualified male elders (bishops or pastors) appointed in every congregation (Acts 14:23; 20:28; 1 Pet 5:1-4; 1 Tim 3; Titus 1); congregational teaching and admonishing through spiritual songs, making melody in the heart to the Lord (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16); male teachers in the assembly (1 Cor 14:34; 1 Tim 2:11-12); communion observed every first day of the week (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor 11). There are many other “landmarks” or divine “traditions” found in the New Testament.

In the book of Judges it states there were times when everyone in Israel was doing what was right in his own eyes (cf. Deut 12:8; Judges 17:6; 21:25). Does this describe our own times? Let us not remove the ancient landmarks, the New Testament teachings; having moved them, let us find them and put them back in place.

Green Meadow church of Christ
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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.