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THE SURE WORD

By Jonnie Hutchison

IT' IS HIS HOUSE

Suppose someone drove into the driveway of your home in a truck pulling a trailer upon which rested a bulldozer. A man gets out of the truck, picks up a sledgehammer off the trailer and enters your home unannounced. He then precedes to raise the sledge hammer and begins to knock down a wall in your home. You would no doubt respond by shouting, "What are you doing?" Suppose the man answers, "I don't like this wall. I don't like the colors you chose to paint it. In fact, I don't like any part of your house and I am going to change it to suit myself." In that situation, you would no doubt tell the man, "This is MY house. You have no right to change it!" You would, of course, be right in making that response. After all, it is YOUR HOUSE not HIS!

Did you know that the Bible calls the church of Christ "the house of God?" "But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in **the house of God, which is the church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). The church is God's house. In fact, the Bible teaches that Jesus "purchased the church" and the price He paid for the church was His blood (Acts 20:28). Since the church belongs to Jesus – it is His church – then does anyone else have the right or authority to change any aspect of the church? May one enter with the "sledgehammer of change" and break down the walls which have been built by the very Son of God? To attempt to tear down the walls of worship, the mission, or the message of the Lord's church is to act without divine authority and to place one's soul in eternal jeopardy. Why? Because it is HIS HOUSE not yours or mine and we have no right to change it to suit ourselves!

The Lord will not hold him guiltless who wields the "sledgehammer of change." Some in Galatia were attempting to break down the walls the Lord had built teaching a "perverted gospel." The strong warning given them is found in the words, "But even if we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-9).

The plea of faithful churches of Christ today is to follow the pattern of original Christianity revealed in the New Testament of Jesus Christ. To recognize that the church Jesus built belongs to Him and only He has the right to specify the terms of entrance into His church, to dictate the avenues of worship he desires and to stipulate the mission He desires His church to fulfill in this world. We encourage each reader to refuse the "sledgehammer of change" and rather embrace original New Testament Christianity accepting that IT IS HIS HOUSE not yours!