

EXPEDIENCY

by Billy Moore

Expedient is “a means to an end” (American Heritage Dictionary). Thus many conclude that the end justifies the means, so anything that will accomplish what we think to be good, is permissible. However, for a thing to be a Scriptural expedient it must facilitate in the accomplishment of God’s will, thus must be in harmony with His word. *“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient”* (1 Cor. 6:12). In doing the will of God, expediency would be the right of human choice in the realm of those things God has authorized. We have a choice in many matters. Go teach, but how do you go? Worship God, but what shall be the order of worship? Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, but how many? Which songs? The Lord’s supper, eat the bread and drink the cup, but where do you get the bread and cup? How is it served to the assembly? Give as prospered, but should it be cash or check? How is the money collected? When: At the beginning or end of the assembly? Preach the word, but how? One on one, class room, pulpit, radio or TV, printed page, internet? The list goes on and on, for human choice is involved in all these areas and many others.

EXAMPLES OF EXPEDIENCY

Jesus said, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved”* (Mk. 16:16). Baptism is a burial (Rom. 6:4) in water (Acts 8:36). The water may be in a stream, pond, ocean, sea, or in a baptistry. Where there is a sufficient amount of water to bury (immerse), the candidate may be baptized. The place for baptism is a matter of expediency — the right of choice within the realm of that which is authorized. The thing commanded is *“baptize.”* The place is a matter of choice. However, whether we sprinkle water for baptism or immerse in water is not a matter of choice. God commands *“baptize”* and that baptism is a burial (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12).

Christian’s met *“upon the first day of the week”* (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2). They were charged not to forsake the assembling (Heb. 10:25). There is no specific place for worship, *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and in truth”* (Jn. 4:24). The authority to assemble requires a place. *“If...the whole church be come together in one place,”* Paul wrote (1 Cor. 14:23). *“If there come into your assembly,”* James said (Jas.

2:2). But the place is not commanded; it is a matter of expediency. It may be in a brother’s house (Phile. 2), or in *“the upper room”* (Acts 20:8). The church may own that place, or rent it, or build it. The authority for the place is in the authority to assemble, as are all things necessary for the assembling, such as lights, heating/cooling, facilities that are essential when people are together for any length of time, as rest rooms, water fountains, etc.

“Let all things be done unto edifying” (1 Cor. 14:26). To edify is to build up. A matter of expediency (human choice) must not cause one to stumble. I must not insist on “my choice” being accepted by all disciples. Example: Eating of meat that had been offered unto idols and later sold in the markets was a lawful thing, but it was offensive to some disciples who looked upon such as partaking in idolatry, so do not eat it. *“If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh...”* (1 Cor. 8:13). *“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient”* (1 Cor. 10:23-31).

BAPTISM INTO CHRIST

by John Isaac Edwards

There are many advantages found in Christ which are not available outside of Christ:

Redemption. "...the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24).

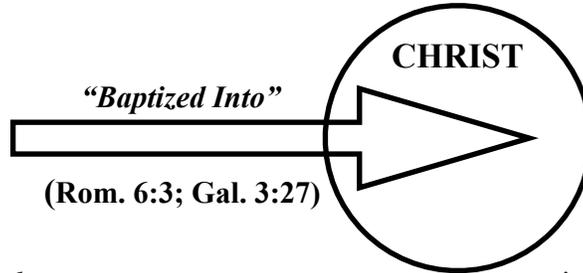
Sanctification. "...to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus..." (1 Cor. 1:2).

Liberty. "...our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus..." (Gal. 2:4).

All Spiritual Blessings. "...all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3).

An Inheritance. "In whom also we have obtained an

inheritance..." (Eph. 1:11).



Reconciliation. "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:13).

The Hope And Promise Of Eternal Life. "...the promise of

life which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 1:1). "In hope of eternal life..." (Titus 1:2).

Salvation. "...the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Tim. 2:10).

We must get into Christ to have the things found in Christ. This is accomplished in baptism:

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" (Rom. 6:3).

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27).

Have you been baptized into Christ?

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27).

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

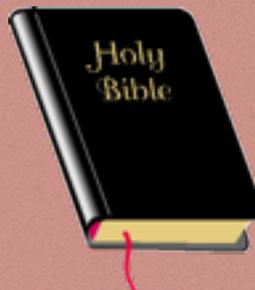
Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com