

No Fleshly Incentives

The use of fleshly incentives to draw people to worship services is becoming more and more common. One church offers free cokes, doughnuts, and balloons to its bus riders. Another offers a prize to the child who brings the most visitors. Still another uses some sports figure or entertainer to attract a crowd. Dinners and socials; elaborate church buildings; "Friendliest church in town" or "Fastest growing church in town: advertising; the list of gimmicks is almost endless.

A study of 1 Corinthians, chapter 1 and 2, suggests that the people of our generation are not first to demand fleshly incentives. The Jews and Greeks of Paul's day demanded them. "For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom" (1Cor. 1:22). Paul could have produced both, but he refused to do so: "But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and wisdom of God" (1:23-24).

Paul recognized the fact that some people are just not "convertible": "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (1:26). Why are such infrequently called? Because the majority place their trust in flesh rather than in God. They are fleshly-minded. And Paul was about to coax fleshly-minded, "unconvertible" people "into the church" by the use of signs, wisdom, excellency of speech, enticing words, or any other fleshly incentive. To do so would result in getting their names on a "church roll," but not bringing them to Christ to the saving of their souls.

If Paul refused to use signs and wisdom as fleshly incentives, what would have been his reaction to the use of cokes and doughnuts? If he came "not with excellence of speech or wisdom" (1Cor. 2:1), what would he have said concerning attempts to attract crowds through the use of sport figures and entertainers? If Paul, led by the Holy Spirit, followed a "no fleshly incentive" policy, should that not be our policy? And should we not always be able to say with Paul, "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (2:2).

11/20/11

The Knightsville Lamp

**"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"
(Ps. 119:105)**

THE KNIGHTSVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

905 Pieske St.
Knightsville, IN. 47850

**Please keep the following in your prayers
and/or encourage:**

- Beth Erickson
- Diane Hedge
- Kurt Doughty

-Our College Students and Youth

**Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
Sunday Evening Worship Service 5:30 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm**

ELDERS

- Steve Reynolds 812-878-6216
- Tom Hathaway 812-605-1206
- Rich Arnold 765-592-0350
- Rob Dispennett 812-241-0927

IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE

How good it is that God has never gone on strike. Because He was not treated fair in things He didn't like. If only once He'd given up and said, "That's it. I'm through! "I've had enough of those on earth, so this is what I'll do:

"I'll give my orders to the sun—cut off the heat supply!

"And to the moon—give no more light, and run the oceans dry."

"Then just to make things really tough and put the pressure on, Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone!"

You know he would be justified if fairness was the game. For no one has been more abused or met with more disdain than God, and yet He carries on, supplying you and me with all the favors of His grace, and everything for free.

Men say they want a better deal, and so n strike they go. But with a deal we've given God to whom all things we owe.

We don't care whom we hurt to gain the things we like; but what a mess we'd be in, if God should go on strike!
