

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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## New Testament Pattern for the Support of Preachers

By Derek Long

God's word must authorize everything we say or do in order for us to be pleasing to God (Colossians 3:17). Many people think they are doing some great things in service to God but are acting in a manner contrary to His divine will and will be lost eternally as a result (Matthew 7:21-23). Questions regarding the financial support of preachers come up at times and it is important for us to be familiar with what the Bible teaches on this topic to make sure our practices are approved by God.

One question which sometimes comes up when discussing the financial support of preachers is whether preachers can be supported especially a preacher who remains in one location for an extended period of time. When Jesus sent out the apostles on the limited commission and sent out the seventy, He set forth the principle, "the laborer is worthy of his wages" (Luke 10:7; Matthew 10:10). Paul speaks about the right he had to be supported for the preaching of the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:1-14). At times Paul did not use this right but instead would support himself by working alongside preaching the gospel (Acts 18:3; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-10; etc.). It is clear a

preacher of the gospel has the right to be supported so he can devote more of his time to the work of spreading the gospel. It is also clear an evangelist or preacher can be at a place for an extended period of time. We know Paul stayed in Ephesus for three years (Acts 20:31) and was not wrong for doing so apparently. Acts 8:40 records for us how after the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch Philip goes to Caesarea and appears to still be in Caesarea many years later in Acts 21:8. God's word teaches preachers can be supported for their work and they can work in one location for a number of years and still be pleasing to God.

The Bible shows individuals are capable of supporting a preacher individually. Galatians 6:6 teaches, "Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches" (NKJV). In 3 John 5-8 Gaius is commended by John for helping those who were going out and preaching the truth. Individuals supporting preachers is thus an authorized action based upon these passages.

The Bible also speaks about congregations supporting a preacher of the gospel. The Bible demonstrates how when a congregation supported a preacher of the gospel it sent its support directly to the preacher. Paul writes to the church at Philippi and is grateful for their support of him preaching the gospel (Philippians 1:3-5). Paul rejoices in their care for him and the support they had sent to him on multiple occasions (Philippians 4:10-19). The support which Paul received from the Philippians went from the church at Philippi to Paul. Philippi did not send their money to some missionary society, cooperative program, etc. who then selected which preachers would be supported, how much they would be supported, etc. Philippi sent the support to the preacher without any institution

or organization in between. It is an addition made by men when a human organization is set up to support preachers for local churches. When such happens the decisions a local congregation would be responsible for making are now being made by someone else. As a result, someone else is overseeing the work of that local congregation rather than it overseeing its own work (1 Peter 5:1-2). God's plan for the support of preachers needs to be followed without adding a human institution to support preachers for the church.

The Bible demonstrates also how multiple congregations may support one preacher at the same time. 2 Corinthians 11:8 shows how multiple churches were supporting Paul while he was at Corinth. We do not read of one church gathering up the money from many other churches though and sending it to Paul. Instead, each church was responsible for overseeing its own work in supporting the preacher. Set ups like the sponsoring church arrangement are not mentioned within Scripture and thus are without authority. The fact God's word is silent about missionary societies or a sponsoring church arrangement should tell us such things are not authorized by God (Hebrews 7:14). Let's be careful only to do what God has authorized in the manner God has authorized it to be done when it comes to the support of preachers and other matters as well!