

## My Church

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Matthew 16:1:** "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

We hear people speak about the church in various ways. Some talk about their church, your church, and my church. When they do this they mean that they are referring to the place where they attend the worship services. While some have been accused of acting like it truly is their church, there are those who seem to act like it really is.

Without realizing, or maybe even without caring, people do a lot of harm to the church. There have been those who have reported being told not to come to certain churches. Why? They were told that they didn't fit in with the people of the congregation. The Lord said in Revelation 22: 17. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Who is

authorized to say differently?

Some have said, "My grandpa built this church." Did he? If he nailed the boards together, was he building a church for himself, or for the Lord? There is only one church, contrary to the beliefs of some, and it belongs to the Lord. If it is not the Lord's church, it is a shallow, false, worldly institution and will fail.

The church building is where the church meets to worship the Lord. The building is not the church, the people who are saved make up the church that Jesus built. The building is dedicated to the Lord and not to be used for every thing that people might want to do in it.

People from several congregations have told stories of unkind practices in churches. One of the most common is where a person may sit. A lady spoke years ago of visiting at a revival. She went early to make sure she would find the church and be on time. Later as services were starting a couple came in and told her to move because she was in their seat. My wife and I had nearly the same experience once. They didn't tell us to move, but let it be known that we were in their seat.

This is a pitiful example of those who are supposed to be the

church. Maybe they should put a sign there saying that they don't want anyone to sit in a particular seat. A preacher asked my mother-in-law what she would do if someone came in and sat in her usual seat. She said, "I would move and sit somewhere else, just like I did when you took the seat that I usually sat in." Those who want their own seat and don't like to move, are like my grandchildren, who fuss when one gets the seat that they wanted. A Christian should be, and is, glad when visitors come, no matter where they sit. I am proud to say that at Corinth I have never heard anyone grumble about someone in their seat. We are glad to have visitors and they can sit where they want too.

Speaking of seating and attitudes, why do those who are cold natured sit near the A/C vent and complain of being cold? It is the same in the winter when the heat is on. There have been cases where people put several song books on a vent to keep the air from coming out. Move? It was not an option. We have our likes and dislikes, opinions, and a lot more. Praise the Lord - He loves us anyway! Still, he would like us to grow up and quit a lot of these childish ways.

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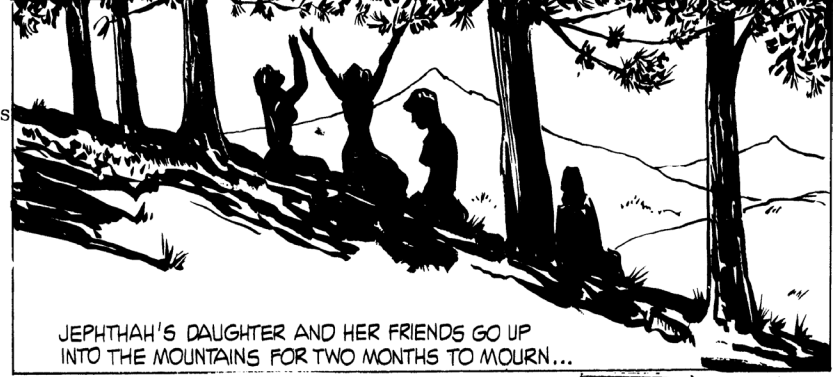
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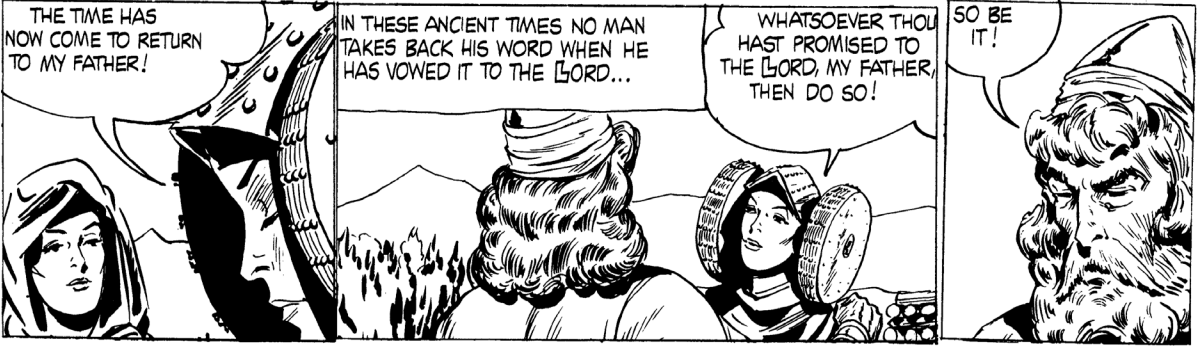
This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Judges, intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

### JEPHTHAH

JEPHTHAH HAS TOLD HIS ONLY DAUGHTER THAT SHE MUST BE SACRIFICED TO THE LORD AS THE PRICE OF HIS VICTORY OVER THE AMMONITES, NOW...



JEPHTHAH'S DAUGHTER AND HER FRIENDS GO UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS FOR TWO MONTHS TO MOURN...



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