

- a. There are missionary societies floating around everywhere.
- b. Our brethren in the past fought the American Missionary Society.
- c. A.M.S. was formed in Cincinnati in October of 1849 — p. 157, Dabney Phillips, Book: *Restoration Principles and Personalities*
- d. Phillips reports there were four general arguments against the Missionary Society at that time:
  - 1) The society became a substitute for the church.
    - \* Strongly made by Tolbert Fanning, David Lipscomb, Jacob Creath. Lipscomb showed the society's argument that it was an expedient was false.
  - 2) The society caused division.
  - 3) It was felt that the society would, and in fact did, dictate to the congregations.
    - \* Preachers were snubbed who did not support it, generally.
  - 4) The society made for a poor investment financially.
    - \* 40% of the money funnelled to secretaries, salaries, other business matters pertaining to running the organization.

**17. In the February 7, 1867 issue of the *Gospel Advocate* — David Lipscomb wrote:**

⇒ "To operate through an institution of man's devising in preference to the church of God, is in our esteem, to exalt man as of superior wisdom and power to God. To call in question the efficiency of God's appointments, as the best (we had like to say the only) that can be ordained for the accomplishment of God's designs, is to call in question the power of God." — p. 159, Phillips

**Conclusion:**

1. Let us stand up for the pattern of church government of the church set forth in the NT.
2. Let us understand the true nature and mission of

- the church.
3. Let us never endorse, support or encourage those who have gone beyond the NT pattern of the organization of the church.
  - a. If we do we bid Godspeed and we are partakers of their evil deeds -- 2 Jn. 9-11
  - b. Eph. 5:11 - have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.
4. Now the unscriptural arrangement I've described is the exact situation with the Herald of Truth today.
  - a. The excuses offered are theirs as well.
5. I have some copies of material here which I will leave for you to pick up, read and circulate among yourselves about the Herald of Truth which will hopefully be beneficial to you.
6. Personal remarks and application to the local church.
7. Invitation.

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**Note from the Author of this Tract  
to Preachers and Teachers in the  
Church of Christ**

**Preachers:** You may wish to preach this material from the pulpit in teaching about church autonomy and organization. Also, the importance of both *respecting God's Word* and *how to rightly divide God's Truth* may be emphasized. It would be appreciated if you would mention this tract title so that others may learn of its existence and order his/her own copy.

**Class Teachers:** You may wish to order a number of these tracts so that each student in a class may have his own copy in studying this material.

**TRACTS FOR THE NATIONS** *Coordinator:*  
Gary L. Grizzell

# Church Autonomy and Missionary Societies

## and the Herald of Truth program today

*Sermon Preached  
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Gary L. Grizzell