

## **CHURCH, SELLING IN THE BUILDING**

*By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.*

Many times a church member seems like he constantly looks for things to raise a fuss over. I have been around for a long time and just about the time I think that I have seen it all – some well-meaning person will come up with a new one.

Matt 21:12-13 reads, Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 'It is written,' he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.' NIV

Some say this is a proof-text to refuse selling anything in the church building. The abuse was, buying and selling, and changing money, in the temple. Note, Lawful things, ill timed and ill placed, may become sinful things. That which was decent enough in another place, and not only lawful, but commendable, on another day, defiles the sanctuary, and profanes the Sabbath. They sold beasts for sacrifice, for the convenience of those who could more easily bring their money with them rather than their beast; and they changed money for those who wanted the half shekel, which was their yearly poll, or redemption-money; or, upon the bills of return; so that this might pass for the outward business of the house of God; and yet Christ will not allow of it. The money changers were well known to be cheaters (thieves). Great corruptions and abuses in the church as well is to be opposed.

However, to sell a Gospel singers CD, a Revival Speaker's book or something to help one to grow spiritually is not to be compared with Jesus' "cleaning house" in the above text.

**Plainly, don't get short changed.** Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible (in Acts) teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31) 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37) 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22) 6) Be Active In the Church (2:47)

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