

# Church of Christ

## ...Heart to Heart...

There are probably not any who enjoy the Andy Griffith Show more than me. I'm always making quotes from what I've heard from the show. It's a classic and good fun. Here is why I bring that up. Today, in the church of our Lord, the Andy Griffith Show has been made into a series of Bible studies! It is popular more in the southern states than in the Midwest. Larger congregations are using it to help increase their attendance and stir excitement. It's titled, "*The Andy Griffith Bible Study Series.*" I'm not a finger-pointer or into bashing others. That serves no purpose. What I try to do is keep our focus on where our focus should be and that's Christ and Him crucified!

Let's make some spiritual observations about such. (1) There is nothing wrong with using things as objects lessons. God's word certainly does that, but not in a fleshly way. (2) What does God want? His word preached and taught (II Tim. 4:1-2). That means there is no room for substitutes. When our Bible classes preach/teach Barney over the apostles, there is something wrong. They are supposed to be **Bible classes!** The Andy Griffith Show never brought one to knowing God (John 17:3)! It never converted a single person. There is no one led to Christ, baptized into His death, or raised to walk in newness of life. There is no faith produced, as that comes only from God's word. This is a "man-created" show purely for entertainment purposes. Yes, it has some moral values, but those moral values can't be a substitute for Christ and His word. God's word is reality, reveals truth, and gives one direction amid a lost world. His word teaches the best morals, more than any man can think of! Jesus will always be honest with you. (3) God confronts man with their sinfulness, showing a need for a Savior. Andy never confronts sinfulness but shows tolerance and acceptance. From the beginning of creation to Revelation, one message was preached, and it leads people to repentance. (4) One assembles with the saints to worship, drawing near to God. Mayberry has never helped anyone worship, much less draw near to God. Only through Christ can we draw near (Heb. 4:14-16). Only through Christ can we offer acceptable sacrifices to God (I Pet. 2:4-5).

Listen carefully, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires." (II Tim. 4:3) We must guard against "ear ticklers" and look for truth from God's word. It's the only way to be spiritual and develop saving faith! Think about it!!!

Brent