

“Milking Season”

By Tony Melton

A young farm boy had to spend so much time on a school bus that it conflicted with his chores. He needed to get home earlier so he could milk the cows. So he went to the assistant principal, seeking permission to drive his car to school. The principal, who had just moved to the rural area from the city, listened to the problem, thought a moment, and rendered his decision: “You may drive to school for now, but once the milking season is over you’ll have to take the bus again.”

Often we, like this principle, make decisions based on preconceived ideas or without proper investigation. This is especially true pertaining to religious matters. For example, when people look for a church to attend or “join,” they often go about it without proper investigation: Some spend months traveling from one denomination to another trying to find one that appeals to them (not thinking that it might not appeal to Jesus). Others do not investigate at all, but they just attend their parent’s church. Then there are others who choose a church because of its large or small membership.

What is the correct way to choose a church? The appropriate way (and really the only way) is to investigate and read about the church found in the pages of the New Testament. After learning all about the practices and methods of the church that Jesus built, we will be able to make a proper and educated decision. Jesus prophesied, “On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). Jesus fulfilled this prophecy in Acts chapter two: “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:41). Today, we can be members of this church that Jesus established almost 2000 years ago.