

**New Mount Moriah AME Church**  
**Bible- Study, 7 April 2024**  
***The Church Obsessed Over the Facilities***

**Introduction:** Last week, we discussed the demise of a church due to its lack of a clear purpose and understanding of its failure to fulfill the great commission. Tonight, our study will focus on the following statement from a church member. "I know we died for a number of reasons, but fights over this room are the clearest markers I have to the closing of the doors. It seems so silly, so sad now. We were fighting over a stupid room while the church died."

**The Obsessed Reality**

Does it shock us to learn that churches divide, and members leave to form new congregations over their obsession with rooms? Lydia's room was the pride of the church; it was more important than the unity of membership. According to the author, memorials come in the form of chairs, tables, rooms, and other places where plaques can be placed. Food for thought: Are memorials in churches a sign of being carnal?

**Life application:**

1. Which is more important, the chairs, tables, rooms, or the unity of God's people?
2. Reflect momentarily on your current church or a church you have attended. Can you recall the division over a room, carpet, stained windows, or seating? If so, what was the primary cause? How did it affect the church's fulfillment of the great commission?
3. How many church members have sought inactive members to become active for selfish reasons (quarterly or church conferences)?

**Jesus and Things**

After reading **Matthew 6:19-21 (NKJV)**, what role do you think it played in the demise of a church obsessed over facilities? "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

**Questions for Prayerful Thought**

1. Explain the difference between a church being a good steward of physical things versus the church becoming obsessed and **idolatrous** about them. What are some examples of each?
2. Why do so many churches have conflicts over "things?"
3. Going forward, how do churches avoid their demise due to material things?

**Prayerful Commitment 11**

Lord, teach me the proper stewardship of all the material items You give me personally and in my church. Help me never let that stewardship evolve into obsession and idolatry, especially when I lose my perspective on what really matters.