

United Way -- No Way!

Every year there is a big fund-raising drive by the United Way. They ask you to donate money so they can give it to various organizations. That, in-and-of itself, goes against expediency. Why not just give money directly to the organization you want to help?

Expediency is not the only problem. The United Way of Angelina county supports a false religious organization.

The brochure for the local United Way office lists the organizations supported by its office and how much each one is to receive. Among those listed is the Salvation Army. Its share of the funds is projected at \$92,000, making it the biggest beneficiary. The problem is that the Salvation Army is a false religious organization. Among other things, it teaches error on the plan of salvation, the nature of man, the church, its organization and work.

The Salvation Army teaches that man can be saved by faith and repentance alone. The Bible says a man must also be baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

The Salvation Army teaches that man is born with Adam's sin. The word of God says man does not inherit sin (Ezekiel 18:20).

The Salvation Army teaches the church is organized like a military, with national headquarters and various officers overseeing various areas. The New Testament teaches that the church has NO organization larger than the local church (Ephesians 1:22-23). In the local church, elders (pastors, bishops) are to do the overseeing (1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 20:28).

The Salvation Army teaches the church is to be some kind of holy charity. The Bible teaches the church is the pillar and ground of truth (1 Timothy 3:15). It can only raise funds through weekly contributions (1 Corinthians 16:1-3). It can only use those funds for teaching the lost, edifying the saints and providing benevolence to needy saints (Philippians 4:15-17; 1 Corinthians 9:14; Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 15:25-26; Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1-6; 11:27-30; 2 Corinthians 8, 9).

The local United Way office said it distributes funds given to it according to the requested amount of the organizations it helps, unless designated for a particular group. Hence, many people are supporting the Salvation

Army through the United Way. The Christian must shun this.

Again, may we suggest, if you want to give to an organization like the Boy Scouts, write them a check, not the United Way.

Steven F. Deaton