

### **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

Politicians are very interested about special interest groups. When people come together, form an organization with specific goals and wants, these people can carry a great influence for good or for bad. Although we may not think of them as special interest, groups, many of the organizations formed to help combat disease, birth defects, and alcoholism are ones many of us regularly support. These groups are trying to help society by ridding us of some of the problems that grip the unfortunate.

But, of the special interest groups in our country today, those who are bent for evil receive the greater amount of attention. They claim lives by setting bombs, they kidnap innocent people for attention and money, while spreading general havoc and fear into the lives of the people they want to influence. This is all illegal of course, but it is this type of activity which usually receives the quickest attention by the authorities.

If the desires, goals, and methods of a special interest group are pure and admirable then there is nothing wrong in working for them. It is a good way to spend our free time and help our fellow man as well. But some special interest groups are very selfish in their view of what is best. Under the cover of "this will be good for the country" the real message is "this will be good for us." So many times special interest groups are so intent on achieving their goals that they don't care much about the valid interests of others. They have an attitude of "If it is good for self, it doesn't make any difference what happens to anyone else."

One special interest group, far and away different from any other kind, good or bad, is the church. The church that Jesus built is not, concerned with making money, building huge places of worship, or acquiring good investments. The church as spoken of in the Bible is not after political power, economic stability, or a slice of the Gross National Product. But if we can view the church as a special interest group, we recognize that what the church is trying to do is win souls for Christ. One may continue to live in the same house, eat the same food, drive their choice of automobile, and shop at the same places of trade and still live the Christian life.

The church's special interest is in a better life in the "here and now" and knowing there can be eternal life to come. This special interest then covers such things as better relationships with other people, a better home, learning to live with self, and above all worshipping God in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24). When one begins to enjoy all of these things after being added to the church, he will naturally want others to share in these blessings. Evangelistic outreach is a big part of the work of the church because it is in this way the church will grow and serve humanity.

In developing a Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA) one will realize what the true function of the church is, and as a type of special interest group will further the cause in doing the things of God.