1ST OF DECEMBER 2017

MERCHANDISING IN THE HOUSE OF GOD!

2 Timothy 4:2 .

**Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

According to Bro. Gbile Akanni :

*" when God lends you a key into divine intervention, to salvation, joy and His power, a key to His Word; there is a responsibility that He expects of you".*It is upon the above premise that I am compelled to write to the Church of God.

Without any iota of doubt; the Church of God is not meant to be involved in buying and selling.

The core duties of the Church are clear and unambiguous as stipulated by our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, it is obvious the Church has lost her focus and all sort of irregularities have crept in.

The Church now is known for all sort of buying and selling : car boot sales, clothing sales, food, books etc.

The danger of this practice is that we are exposing our children to believing that it's not bad after all to start a business using church.

In fact, the altar of God is now being used during service to advertise all sort of merchandise without any remorse whatsoever.

This is the era where ministers of God use their position to impose their goods on unwilling congregants; sometimes forcing them to buy on credit and later putting pressure on them for payment.

This practice is an act of exploitation and there is no basis for it in the body of Christ.

Believers are free to do business with one another, but where the Church of God is gradually being converted into  “shopping mall"   something must be done before it gets out of hand.

Jesus christ said "**My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers"**Mathew 21:13.

He chased them out of the temple.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever.Heb 13:8

If He resented all forms of buying and selling then, obviously he has not lowered the standard expected of us now.

Someone will argue; buying and selling has become the norm in the Church today, all our big Denominations do it.

Jesus said in Mathew 23:3 concerning the practice of Scribes and Pharisees

" **Do what they say but do not follow after their works"**
Jesus Christ is our standard.

The business of the Church is centred on winning souls and feeding souls.

In John 21:15-17 , after Peter and some of the disciples went back to fishing business,

Jesus said to Simon Peter 3 times :

"do you love me more than these"

Then He concluded

" Feed my Sheep"

Remember He said to same Simon Peter earlier in Mathew 16:18 -

And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build My Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The Lord wants His Church  to focus more on souls and desist from any form of merchandising.

For the sake of emphasis, all the fìrst four books of the New Testament(Mark 11:15-18 , John 2:13-17, Mathew 21:12-13 Luke-19:45-46  )  captured the story of how Jesus chased people doing buying & selling out of the temple.

The Lord Almighty will grant us more insight into His words.

Let's hear conclusion of the whole matter.

Phil. 4:8- Finally brethren,; whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just....pure, lovely, of good report, if there be any virtue, any praise; think on these things.

Signed. Bro Cole