

# *City* Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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## Christians As Examples

Clovis Ragsdale

In I Tim. 4:12 Paul advises the young gospel preacher, Timothy, to be an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith and in purity. This advice is good for any Christian because as such we are constantly on trial in the eyes of all men. The power of example is great for good or for evil; even more powerful than teaching. The world judges Christianity by the words and deeds of individual Christians. There is no way that we can escape this responsibility. The only thing that we can do is to see that our lives are kept pure in the sight of all and thus be a credit to the one whose name we wear, Jesus Christ.

Every noble deed that we perform may be the means of encouraging some one to choose to become a Christian. Oftentimes small deeds which at the time may be taken very lightly by us will have momentous effects on others. The same applies to our words. Christ stated in Matt. 12:36 that we shall give account of every idle word that we shall speak in the day of judgment. Christians need to give heed to the saying that we should "think twice before we speak". This rule might save a lot of heartache and embarrassment to many. Also it would help us to avoid saying things which might discourage others from becoming Christians. No one wants to be a stumbling block in the path of any soul whatsoever. Yet I have heard people say that the reason they were not Christians was because of the ways of someone who was. Oftentimes this charge is used more for an excuse by a hardened sinner, looking for a way to ease a goading conscience, but no true Christian wants to be an excuse for some one to serve the Devil.

## LECTURESHIP REPORT

The Lectureship in Mammoth Spring was a huge success. The building was full every night and the speakers arose to the occasion. The lessons were very timely, and delivered with force. Many visitors were present from distant points. Many attended every night. The congregations in this area were well represented. The Brethren in Mammoth express appreciation to all who made it possible.

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## A WORD OF THANKS

We sincerely appreciate all the nice things you have said about the paper, and for your encouragement in this work. We have received a lot of mail. We have added a lot of names to the mailing list since last issue. If you know of someone that you would like to get the paper, send us their name and address. We are deeply grateful to those who have contributed to this effort to proclaim the gospel through this medium. May God richly bless all of you.

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## NEWS ITEMS

Bro. Henry Casey preached for the church at Viola on the fifth Sunday.

Bro. Don Smith will be preaching for the church at Gatewood, Mo., on the first and third Saturday nights each month.

Every Christian needs to develop a very strong sense of responsibility to the fact that we are crossing the stage of life before a critical audience, watching our every word and move, intent on finding a flaw in our lives and charging it against our Master, Jesus Christ, so if not for our own sake, then certainly for his, we need to be so careful.

## Gospel Meetings

WILLIFORD, ARK. April 16-26. Bro. Riley Henry of West Plains, Mo., will do the preaching.

WELCOME HILL, May 25-31. Bro. John Simpson of Searcy, Ark., will be the speaker. Welcome Hill is located about four miles west of Mammoth Spring.

VIOLA, ARK., April 20-29. Bro. LeVern Stewart of West Plains, Mo., will be the speaker.

ELIZABETH, ARK., June 1 - 7. Bro. Max Patterson, Senatobia, Miss., will be the evangelist.

CAMP, ARK., July 20-30. Bro. Lowell Blasingame of Grenada, Miss., the speaker.

MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK., Aug. 20-30. Bro. Riley Henry, West Plains, Mo., will be the speaker.

Make your plans now to attend the meetings.

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## Contributions Acknowledged

L. D. McAbee, Thayer, Mo. ....	\$1.00
Ora Mills, Mammoth Spring ...	1.00
A Silent Helper .....	2.00
Bill Gower, Ravenden .....	1.00
Arthur Garner, Hardy .....	2.00
A Lady In Williford .....	1.00
Mrs. Elsie Rowden, Salem .....	3.00
C. D. Johnson .....	2.00
A Silent Helper .....	1.00
Robert Risner, English Bluff ...	2.00
A Silent Contributor .....	1.00
A Silent Contributor .....	1.00
T. Shell Taylor, Thayer, Mo. ...	1.00
Mrs. J. H. Geisler, Hardy, .....	1.00
Owen Sroud, Wheeling .....	1.00

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## MAILING ADDRESS

Send all correspondence to Wesley Hylton, P. O. Box 237, Mammoth Spring, Ark. Questions and comments are invited.

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## He Shall Build An House

Wesley Hylton

God speaking through the prophet Nathan to David said in 11 Sam. 7:12-13, "When thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever". The fact that David's seed is to build a house may seem unimportant to some. However, we see that such is not the case when we learn of the importance that the Lord attached to it's construction.

Some may reach the immediate conclusion that he was referring to Solomon, David's seed, who was to build the temple. God refused to let David build the temple. Another glance at the prophecy quickly refutes the idea that it refers to Solomon, or the temple. God said, "I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever". Solomon's throne has perished with the passing of time. So has the temple.

By turning to I Tim. 3:15 we find what the pen of inspiration calls the house. "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the **house of God, which is the church** of the living God." The house then to be built was the church. Nathan said, "He shall build an house". It was to be built at some future date. Paul's statement to Timothy indicates that the house had been built. Somewhere between the time Nathan made his prophecy concerning the seed of

David, and Paul's statement to Timothy, the church had been established. The house had been built.

It is vitally important that we find out just when this wonderful event took place; for, there are those who teach, the false doctrine, that Christ will not establish his kingdom until He returns the second time. However, if we believe what Paul said, we can't help but accept the fact that it is already in existence.

Someone may be ready to object, by pointing out that Paul had reference to the church when he spoke of the "house of God"; and that the church (house) has nothing to do with the kingdom in the same sentence. Therefore, evidently they refer to the same thing. To further substantiate this fact, Nathan said in the sentence previous to the one just quoted, "I will establish his kingdom".

These facts cannot be denied. The kingdom amounts to the same thing as the church, or house. Nathan isn't the only one to advance this idea. Christ also advocated it. In Matt. 16:18-19 he said, "I will build my church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys to the kingdom of heaven". Here the Lord uses the terms church and kingdom in the same sense. Adam Clark commenting on this passage says, "By the kingdom of Heaven, we may consider the true church, that house of God, to be meant; and by the keys, the power of admitting into that house".

From the foregoing we learn that David's seed was to build a house. Christ promised to build His church. We've established beyond doubt that the church or house is the same as the kingdom. But was Christ the seed of David referred to in the prophecy? If we can establish this point, and the time the house was built, the matter is forever sealed.

In Isa. 2:2-3, "It shall come to pass in the **last days**, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people will go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountains of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the

Lord from Jerusalem". There are several factors about this amazing prediction that we need to notice. 1. The mountain of the Lord's house is to be established in the top of the mountains. 2. It would take place in the **last days**. 3. All nations would flow unto it. People would encourage others to go up to the Lord's house. 4. The word would go forth from Jerusalem.

The term mountain in this scripture is accepted by Bible scholars as referring to government. Therefore, the Lord's house was to be established in the last days, and it would be exalted above all human governments. The implication of it's originating point is unmistakable; it will begin in Jerusalem.

With these thoughts in mind, it would be well for you to read Daniel, the second chapter. There we find Daniel interpreting King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The king forgot the dream. Daniel told him about the dream and what it meant. The image had a head of gold. The breast and arms were in silver. The belly and thighs of brass; and the legs of iron; with feet of iron mixed with clay.

Dan says in chapter 2:37-38, "Thou, O King, art a king of kings; thou art this head of gold". In verse 39 he continues, "And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass which shall bear rule over all the earth". Verse 40 tells us, "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron". From these passages it is obvious that he has reference to kingdoms that would rule over the world. Subsequent history has proven this prophecy to be true. Nebuchadnezzar was the first, and is represented by the head of gold. the second kingdom began with Darius the Median as ruler. It was represented by the silver portion of the image. Alexander the Great was the third world ruled. (The brass). The fourth (legs of iron, etc) kingdom was the Roman empire. Now let's notice Dan. 2:44, "In the days of these kings (Roman kings) shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed . . . and it shall stand forever."

God revealed through Daniel in his making known to the king his dream, and what it meant, that He would set up a kingdom during the days of the Roman kings. It would never be destroyed. Daniel further put God's seal

on it when he said, "God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter; and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure". Dan. 2:45.

From scripture already quoted we learn that the kingdom will be set up during the last days. It would occur during the rule of Rome, the fourth world power. It was to begin in Jerusalem.

John the Baptist appears on the scene, as the forerunner of Christ, preaching "The kingdom of heaven is at hand". Christ begins His personal ministry. He also proclaims the kingdom as being at hand. In Matt: 16:18, He promises to build His church. Speaking of the kingdom He said in Mk. 9:1, "Verily I say unto you, that there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God come with power. The Lord here states that church, or kingdom, would be established during the lifetime of those standing near Him. It would come with power.

The purpose of heaven is fulfilled, and Christ dies on the cross. He is buried in a borrowed tomb. On the third day He arises. He appears to His disciples and teaches them concerning the coming kingdom. (A hint as to the nature of that kingdom is revealed in His remark to Pilate.) He said, "My kingdom is not of this world". He told the woman of Samaria, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit; and they that worship him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth". Jn. 4:23-24. He then ascended into Heaven, after telling the apostles to tarry in Jerusalem until endued with power from on high.

Acts 2 reveals that when the day of Pentecost was fully come, the apostles were altogether in one place. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim the message of salvation. Three thousand souls, upon hearing that message were convicted of guilt, cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" They were told to "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins". Acts 2:37-38. Verse 47, "And the Lord added to the church

daily such as should be saved".

Thus the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ from the dead becomes the birthday of the church. On that day the house was built. The church was established and the kingdom came with power. It is a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

During his message to the people Peter states, "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; and it shall come to pass in the **last days**, sayeth God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh . . ." Joel said it would happen in the last days and Peter said, "This is that". In Heb. 1:2, "Hath in these **last days** spoken unto us by his son". Isaiah said it would happen in the last days. So did Joel. Peter said that it did happen. Therefore, there can be no doubt about it.

Jesus said that His Kingdom would begin before some people, then living, would taste death. This was literally fulfilled when the church was established. He further stated that the kingdom would come with power. In Acts 1:8, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you". This was Christ speaking to the apostles. The Holy Ghost came upon them on the first Pentecost after Christ arose from the dead. They received power from on high, and began to witness for the Saviour. Thus, the kingdom came when the power came.

We have established the time element beyond doubt. The "house" was built in the "last days", during the rule of the Roman kings. It was to start in Jerusalem, and did. All subsequent events and facts concerning the kingdom as to time, place and circumstances agreed perfectly with the predictions that were made concerning it.

Was Christ the seed of David referred to in 11 Sam. 7:12-13? Let's see what Peter, being inspired of the Holy Spirit, said about it. Acts 2:29-32, "Men and brethren, let me freely speak to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; he seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither did

his flesh see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we are all witnesses".

This leaves no doubt about the matter. Christ was the seed spoken of in the prophecy. He promised to build his church. The church and the house are the same. It was to be built in Jerusalem; during the last days and during the rule of the Roman kings. The Bible teaches that it came to pass, just as God predicted. And who are we to question the wisdom of the Almighty? Let's accept the fact, and be glad that He made it possible for us to be members of it.

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## There Is Something In a Name

Delton Haun

If there is nothing in a name why did God change Abraham's name from Abram to Abraham, Sarah's name from Sari to Sarah and Jacob's name from Jacob to Israel? (Gen. 17:5,15; 32:27-28).

If there is nothing in a name why do we not name our sons Judas or Nero or Lucifer? Or why do we not sign cheeks with the name of a friend? The answer lies in the fact names ARE important.

Especially is the name of Christ important. Before his birth an angel announced to Mary, "And, behold, thou shalt \* \* bring forth a son and call his name JESUS (Lk. 1:31). Jesus pointed out to the apostles, "If ye shall ask anything **IN MY NAME**, I will do it". (Jn. 14:14). Paul later said, "And whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all **IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS**". (Col. 3:17).

When Peter spoke of Christ he said, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **NONE OTHER NAME** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved". (Acts 4:12.) (All caps mine, D. H.).

In New Testament days the disciples were called Christians (Acts 11:26). They were commanded to glorify God in this name (1 Pet. 4:16). In our day we should strive to be nothing more or less than Christians. Would you not like to lay aside every human religious name and to glorify God through the name of His Son? To do so you will need to become a Christian and a Christian only.

## HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT THAYER, MO.

The church was established by Roy Kellet about twenty-two years ago. It began meeting in the city hall with fifteen present, two of these were non-members. The church house was built about two months later.

Three or four years later there were about fifty members.

Preachers who conducted meetings were Bro. Boyd Mrgan, Bro. Wilkerson, Burl Curtis, Riley Henry, Laverne Stuart, L. N. Moody, Fred Killibrew, Lacey Porter, J. W. Brents, Dale Larson and Ray Chester.

Full time preachers who labored with the congregation were Earl Stallcup, Glen Snaver, Don Flannegan, Joe Pruitt, Grover DuBois, Lonnie Smith and Don Smith.

Student preachers who came from Harding College and preached Sunday and Sunday nights: Bro. Durham, Johnny Clark, Dale Larson, Elmo Franklin, Larry Whitehead, Bro. Geo. Snure, a Canadian boy, Richard Walker, Paul DuBois.

Other preachers who preached occasionally: Bro. Joe Blue, Roby Blue, Woody Woodward; James D. Bales, Dean Sears, Jack Wood Sears, Andy T. Ritchie, Owen D. Olbricht, Thomas Henry Olbricht, Bobby McGuire, Clovis Ragsdale, Bud Williams and many others.

C. C. Kellett, Clarence Edwards, J. A. DuBois, Doyle McGuire, I. O. Arnold, Carl Griffith, Truman DuBois, Marshall Holloway, Burney Hutchinson, have served as elders.

Amos McCord, Charley Beatty, Ben Olbricht, Bob Griffith and Berry Honeycutt have served as deacons.

At present the membership is about one hundred with an average attendance of about one hundred and twenty. Contributions average about \$125 or \$130 per week.

J. A. DuBois.

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I am a living stone in the temple of the Lord. 1 Pet. 2:5. However, I never study my Bible lessons, and attend the

services when I get ready. If something comes along that I want to do, I just go ahead and do it, even if it interferes with my responsibility to God. There's no need for one to be a fanatic on religion.

I don't like some of the members, and the preacher is always talking about doing "more" for the Lord. I just get "fed up" with it, because I am satisfied that I am just as good as some who go every time the door is opened.

The preacher says that we are not saved on the basis of our goodness, but by the grace of God. Yet, I think I am a special case, and the Lord has a different standard for me than for others.

I like to see the activities of the church go on, but I am too busy and selfish and lazy to be on time at the services and take part in the activities. I need my money more than the church, so I just give as little as possible and then gripe about that.

Oh yes, I'm going to Heaven my own way! Hope the rest of you can make it!!!

—Selected

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### NEWS ITEM

On Feb. 19, a large number of young people assembled in Thayer, Mo. A number of adults were also present. The young men took part in the services. A period of fine fellowship was enjoyed after services were dismissed. The next meeting will be in Hardy, Ark. They will meet in the High School Gym.

The past third Sunday in March was Weaver Day at Agnos. The sermon was delivered by a grandson of Brother Kayle Weaver.

Bro. Wesley Hylton preached for the church at Agnos on the second Thursday night. Bro. Don Smith preaches on the fourth Thursday night in each month.

Bro. Hylton preached for the church at Liberty (five miles Northeast of Hardy) the second Saturday night in March. He is to go back the second Saturday in April.

## A Form of Unbelief

A preacher of one of the religious groups registered at a St. Louis hotel. As he was about to sign the register he noticed Robert G. Ingersoll's name on the line above. He inquired if this was the Ingersoll of skepticism. Assured that he was, he rushed up to see him. On arriving he quizzed the colonel, "I wrote you several months ago and challenged you for a debate. Why did you not answer my letter?" The colonel replied, "I did not answer your challenge because I know that you do not believe the Bible anymore than I do." The preacher was insulted and asked for proof. Ingersoll picked up his Bible, turned to Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned". He asked the preacher, "Do you believe one must be baptized to be saved?" The preacher stammered, stuttered and trembled, but had to answer, "No". Then the colonel said in triumph, "See, I knew you didn't believe the Bible, why should we debate?"

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Bro. Clovis Ragsdale preached for the church at Jeff on the first Sunday. He will be there again the next first Sunday.

Bro. Hylton preached at Jeff and out at Bethaney during the past month.

The addition to the building at Mammoth Spring is almost completed. It enhances the looks of the building, besides being very useful.

Some people are kinder to their enemies than to their friends—they pray for their enemies.

We cannot control the tongue of a slanderer, but we can live so far above the evil reports that no one will believe them. —Elmore

Achievements are like trousers, they become threadbare if you rest too much on them.