

# FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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## EDITORIAL

During the month of November our nation has set aside a day of thanksgiving. This day originated with our forefathers who settled the first colony in America. They had come to this country for the purpose of finding a place where they could worship God without being oppressed by Roman Catholicism. At the end of the harvest the Pilgrims set aside a week in which they specifically termed a time of thankfulness unto God for the blessings they had received during the past year. Out of this grew what we now call thanksgiving. We are not to confuse Thanksgiving as a day of worship commanded by God. Indeed, every day of the year Christians should pause from the rush of everyday living and approach the throne of God in prayer in which they should be grateful for the blessings that is ours to have. Because life has its share of confusion, heartache, and troubles of many kinds, we often lose sight of the many blessings that we have to be thankful for.

The greatest blessing of all for people today is the fact that we live this side of the cross where the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse us of our sins if we will love our Lord enough to obey his commands. When we think of the great number of people who I've and died before the cross, having known little or nothing of God, we can begin to realize what a blessing it is to know that we can be forgiven of our sins.

Another blessing of our day is that we have access to the word of God as no other people of any age. For more than a thousand years the Gospel was in a dead language and kept from the common people by a ruthless apostate church. Now this power has been part-

ially broken. The Bible can now be had by most anyone anywhere in the world and is the best selling book year after year. The ability to read is possessed by more people today than ever was known in history.

We in America have the privilege of living under a government which encourages its citizens to worship. Our rights to worship are protected by the laws of the land. This blessing is one that Christians in New Testament days did not have. They were oppressed by an all conquering Roman Empire, yet were able to turn the world upside down with the pure and simple Gospel of Christ. They did this without the many excellent methods that we can employ today to reach the hearts of men. Think of the ways that Paul and his companions travelled on their journeys to preach the Gospel and contrast them with ours today.

Finally, we need to be thankful for men who have faithfully preached the truth free from the ideas and opinions of men. The greatest hinderance to the cause of Christ today is not oppression from governments or evil men, but is the division in the ranks of Christianity caused by the doctrines of men being followed instead of the doctrines of Jesus and the inspired apostles. Realizing the many blessings that is ours today we should resolve to live closer to God and to labor more in his service, taking advantage of the many good things that the Lord has blessed us with to further the cause of christianity.

Clovis Ragsdale

The Scripture says to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves NOT sneaky as serpents and squawk like doves.

## DEBATE

The debate between Bro. Boyd Morgan and Joe H. Howard at Dora, Mo. was well attended. The proposition debated was classes, uninspired literature, and women teachers. The last two nights of the debate was to have been the one cup proposition. The anti-class brethren stopped the debate the second night.

I had the privilege of being moderator for Bro. Morgan in the debate. He did a wonderful job in presenting his proposition and meeting all opposition. Bro. Morgan made the prediction the next time they had a debate they would get some one beside Bro. Howard to represent them, and his second prediction was they would never have another debate in their building. Both of his predictions came true. Bro. E. H. Miller of Le Grange, Georgia put forth the same propositions to be debated. Bro. Morgan spoke up and told him that he had told them some one else beside Howard would represent them. And his last prediction came true when the antics stopped the debate and refused either of their men to finish the debate.

At the close of the second night one congregation of the anties invited Bro. Morgan to come and preach for them one night. I believe much and lasting good came from the debate. Bro. Morgan showed by Acts 5:25 that more than one taught at a time, and that the aged women could teach. Tit. 2; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19.

The anti-preachers had left the idea to their members that no one would meet them in debate on these propositions, but they were met and their own members could see the weakness of their position. The effect of the debate will be  
**See DEBATE on last page**

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## “EXCEPT. . . I WILL NOT BELIEVE”

(Jno. 20:25)

Marion Farley — Dallas 17, Texas

After Jesus had risen from the grave, he made a number of appearances to his disciples, that is to all except Thomas, who seemed to be elsewhere on most of those occasions, and when told by his brethren that they had seen the Savior, would not believe them, hence the reference so often made concerning him as, “doubting Thomas”.

He plainly told them, “Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my fingers into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.” (Jno. 20:25)

Let us study two of the outstanding traits of this Apostle, first, he would not believe testimony, a person today who will not believe testimony, could, and possibly should be classed as a ‘doubting Thomas’.

Our faith in God is based solely on testimony.

We believe that the world ‘was framed by the Word of God,’ and that it was destroyed by a flood of waters, and that because of the sinfulness of the inhabitants at that time.

That God’s people were subjected to Egypt bondage, that they were led out of Egypt and across the Red Sea on dry ground, that ‘thousands perished in the wilderness where they wandered for a space of forty years, because of a lack of faith in God, doubting that he was able to fight their battles for them, and protect them from their enemies, that Moses received the Law on mount

Sinai, written on tables of stone by the finger of God, that he died after being allowed to view the land of promise, and that God buried him, allowing no one to know where his grave was, that the Prophets were divinely inspired to write of the coming of the Messiah, that he came according to their prophecies, that he healed all manner of sickness and diseases, that he fulfilled, the Old Testament law, and took it out of the way, ‘nailing it to his cross’, that he died and rose again, that he ascended to heaven, and is now at the right of God, there making intercession for us, that ‘All authority’ has been given to him, that the apostles received authority to put into action the plan of salvation as we have it today, by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon them as Jesus had promised while still with them, that if we are saved eternally we must be submissive to it as rendered by them, and if we reject it, we will be banished forever from the presence of God to spend endless ages in lake of fire and brimstone, for the Savior said of some disobedient, “For where I am, there ye cannot come”. We learn from (Rom. 10:17) that “faith” comes by hearing God’s Word, it should be as easy to believe one part as another.

Too, Thomas not only was relying on sight but on ‘feelings’ also, on neither of these can reliably be placed the confidence and emphasis Thomas gave them.

Many no doubt today are as sincere in their belief of the ‘doctrines’ of men as if they were following the commands as delivered by the apostles and holy men of God who were Divinely inspired to write them for the express purpose of ‘Guiding’ men into ‘All truth’.

It is not at all safe to be guided entirely by our feelings, and some of the best proof to be offered against this position is the case of the apostle Paul, he said he thought he ought to ‘do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth’ and all the while he thought he was doing God ser-

vice.

Neither are we expected to see a reason for having to do religion in the Bible way, for we ‘Walk by faith not by sight’, John said the reason the miracles of Christ were recorded were for the purpose of making believers, he said Jesus did many other signs which were not written, but these were written, “that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name”. (Jno. 20:31)

Let none be like ‘doubting Thomas’, but be like Saul on the Damascus road, when the Lord spoke to him, he said, “What wilt thou have me do?”

Remember the Lord himself said “Not every one that saith, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

It is as simple as that. ‘do’ his commandments and ‘live’ or reject them and ‘die’.

## BY FAITH — Rom. 5:1

Orbie Robbins — Elizabeth, Ark.

Being therefore justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:1.

According to the truth expressed in this scripture it cannot be denied that we have peace with God by faith, and become justified.

That faith is essential to our salvation from past or alien sins, is shown in Jno. 8:24. Jesus said except ye believe that I am He ye shall die in your sins. He also stated in Mk. 16:16 he that believeth not shall be damned, and without faith it is impossible to please God. Heb. 11:6.

The doctrine of salvation by faith only has mislead many people. The statement faith only is found one time in the New Testament.

Ye see how that a man is justified by works and not by faith only. Jas. 2:24. So we see this offers no encouragement to the doctrine by faith only.

From Geneses through Revelation we do not have one example of where that God ever blessed an individual upon their faith in Him until their faith expressed itself in some act of obedience.

When the Bible teaches that we are saved or justified by faith the expression by faith includes every act of obedience essential to salvation.

Since faith comes by hearing God's word. Rom. 10:17, and we are made believers through hearing the word of the gospel, then we are saved and justified through obedience to the gospel or God's word. Acts 15:7; Eph. 1:13-14; 1 Pet. 1:23.

In Hebrews, 11th chapter, Paul refers to a number of examples of how certain characters acted by faith and pleased God. The expression by faith is used 14 times in this chapter, but in every example their faith acted or expressed itself in obedience to God.

Now in Rom. 5:1 Paul shows that we have peace with God through Jesus Christ, but in the same verse he shows that this peace is attained by faith.

Paul stated in Eph. 2:14 for he is our peace, who hath made both one and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between. Therefore, we can see from Rom. 5:1 and Eph. 2:14 we have peace with God through Christ, and that he (Christ) is our peace. Therefore, we must be in Christ in order to have peace with God or salvation. 2 Tim. 2:10.

So the statement by faith with reference to being in Christ includes: repentance, Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30 because repentance is faith working. Confession is faith speaking. Rom. 10:8-10. Baptism is faith submitting. Mk. 16:15-16 which as an act of faith brings us into Christ. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13; where all spiritual blessings can be enjoyed. Eph. 1:3.

Then if we reach heaven and eternal life, these will be obtained by faith. 2 Cor. 5:7. We walk by faith and not by sight.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life. 1 Tim. 6:12. Be thou faithful unto death

and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2:10.

## REVIEW NO. 3

In the last two issues of the Fulton County Gospel News we reviewed the tract written by L. P. England, of Myrtle, Mo. We shall continue with a review of that tract.

On page two of Mr. England's tract we read this statement: "Any Bible reader knows that we are born of God when we get the Holy Ghost." This I deny. Because the Holy Spirit is given to those who have already been born of God.

Acts 2:38 points out two things one receives when he is baptized. They are: (1) "The remission of sins." (2) "The gift of the Holy Ghost." Immediately upon coming forth from the grave of Baptism one receives the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Ghost.

But the Author says that one is born of God WHEN he gets the Holy Spirit. The Bible says one gets the Holy Spirit immediately after that birth. In connection with Acts 2:38 let us read Acts 5:32. These two passages are parallel. "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." Thus we see that there is a difference in our friends idea along this line, and God's.

Let us keep the point before us. Evidently Mr. England thinks that God sends the Holy Spirit to make a child of God out of a sinner. But, dear reader, this is not the case. Read Gal. 4:6 "And because ye are sons God hath sent forth the Spirit of his son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." You see, friends, this affirms because they are already sons. Will anyone deny that a son of God has not been born again? All right then, here are some born again sons to whom God sends his Spirit. Re-read Acts 2:38 and 5:32. Connect them with Gal. 4:6. Our conclusion is simply this: When one hears the gospel he obeys it and thus becomes a son of God. Then God sends the Holy Spirit to him

as a gift.

Mr. England is wrong when he says that God gives the Holy Spirit to a sinner to convert and make a son of God out of him.

Now read again: "This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (Gal. 3:2) Again: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

From these passages we learn that when one hears the gospel or the faith (the system of faith, the gospel) he believes (obeys) then receives the Holy Spirit. Again we must insist that God gives the Holy Spirit, not to sinners, but rather to his own children. The Galatians did not receive the Spirit by hearing and obeying the law of Moses, but by hearing and obeying the gospel.

More later,  
Don Flanagan  
Thayer, Mo

## CONTRIBUTION TO PAPER

- Miss Edith Kirksey, Mammoth Spring \$1.00  
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If your name has not been listed in the contributions, if you have sent in one, please let us know, we will be happy to do so.

## STUDY

A person that is not handsome does not enjoy looking in a mirror as much as a person who is good looking. This is not only true physically speaking but more so Spiritually speaking. If a man will be honest with him self and open his Bible, he can find the exact image of himself. The reason most of us fail to look is because the image we see is not so handsome.

One of the most reflecting passages of scripture to be found in the New Testament is 2 Tim. 2:15; there could be no more of a command given by inspiration than this. It does not read we can if we so choose, it states in the simplest yet most forceful language to study. I am thoroughly convinced that there will be more people that claim to be Christians lost for failure to keep this commandment than any other one found in the New Testament.

Man cannot do anything pleasing in the sight of God if he does not know what God would have him do. Too many times, we are prone to take what some man tell us concerning religion and fail to try the spirits whether they be of God or not, I Jno. 4:1. When the trust that people place in mere mortal man concerning Spiritual matters is compared with the trust placed in physical matters the conclusion is amazing. When you or when I sell something, we always hasten to count the money we receive in exchange for our goods — not necessarily that we do not trust the person who is buying our goods, but because it is good business to do so. Not only that, but there is a possibility of an error being made in the monies given us. But, when it comes to the most important possession man has, his own soul, he will trust what any and everyone tells him. Very seldom does he check to see if he was told the truth.

The scriptures teach us to study, 2 Tim. 2:15, 1 Pet. 3:15, Acts 17:11, and when we fail to do so, we

disobey a command of God.

A question that seems to be in most people's mind is, how often should I study? In answer to that question, I would ask how often do you eat or take physical food? Most of us keep the commands we consider most important, such as, not forsaking the assembly, the Lord's Supper, singing, praying etc., but we fall short in our studying. It will do us well to remember what Jas. said Chapter 2, ver. 10, for whosoever keepeth the whole law yet offend in one point is guilty of it all.

## MUSINGS

Some members are like dead limbs on an apple tree - they bear no fruit but are just sap suckers.

A Christian is like a banana, when he gets away from the bunch he gets peeled.

Paul said to give as we are prospered, from the looks of the contribution, we are about to starve to death.

Is your Spiritual Insurance paid up?

Concerning Religion, it is said. It is better to have and not need than to need and not have.

The Spirit and the Bride say come, I say, I will if I can't find an excuse.

There is a way that seemeth right unto man - that is the way most men go.

The Sword of the Spirit won't cut us if we don't open it.

I love the Church that Jesus bought

And I know it is right

I go on Sunday morning

But not on Sunday night.

I love to hear the Gospel

Its gives me pure delight

I hear it on Sunday morning

But not on Sunday night.

If the Lord comes on Sunday

To claim the ones who have fought the fight

I hope it is in the morning

For I won't be there Sunday night.

## DEBATE

felt for years to come.

I would like to commend Bro. Morgan to you. At any time the truth needs defending, he is able to do the job, and he will do it well. I thank God that we have such men as Bro. Morgan who is able and has the nerve to fight false doctrine within and without the borders of Zion.

By Authur C. Blackwell

## NEWS

Bro. Arthur Blackwell and wife, Bro. Don Flannigan and wife, Bro. Clovis Ragsdale and Sis. V. J. Boler visited Harding College Monday, October 26.

Bro. Boyd Morgan of Corning visited in Mammoth Spring the 5th and 6th of November.

The church building at Camp has been finished on the outside.

There will be a county wide singing every third Sunday in each month. The singing will be held at different church buildings over the county. It is hoped that interest will be sufficient to purchase new song books to be used only on this day.

## WHAT MUST I DO

1. Hear God's Word. (Ro. 10:11 18; Jno. 8:32.)

2. Believe in Christ. (Jno. 8:24; 20:31; Heb. 11:6).

3. Repent of all sins. (Lu. 13:3; Acts 17:30).

4. Confess faith in Christ. (Matt. 10: 32, 33; Ro. 10:9, 10).

5. Be buried in baptism into Christ for the remission of sins. (Ro. 6:4; Mar. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:26, 27; I Pet. 3:21).

RESULTS: Children of God. (Gal. 3:26, 27).

Members of the Lord's church. (Acts 2:47.)

Some say death is only a dream, for some it is liable to be a nightmare.