

# Fulton County Gospel News

Verlon McGuire  
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"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

JUNE - 1965

## Meeting Schedule

Brakebill, Ark.: July 26-31  
Gene Bench  
English Bluff: July 4-11  
Dwight Holland  
Mountain Home, Ark.: Aug. 8-15  
Walter Billingsley  
Moody, Mo.: Aug. 2-11  
Gene Bench  
Winona, Mo.: July 5-14  
Byron, Ark.: Aug. 23-30  
Fred Casey  
Byron, Ark.: Aug. 23-30  
Jess Wilcoxson  
Viola: Aug. 9-15  
Don Fike

## News of the Church in Mammoth Spring

We have just completed dividing our old auditorium into class rooms. Through the sacrifice of time and money on the part of many, we have a very complete arrangement of a physical plant to house our work of class study, preaching, private study for the preacher, store room for supplies to be used for the needy, and all other functions which might be necessary to the work of the church in Mammoth Spring. As this paper goes to press we are completing one of the finest Vacation Bible Schools ever conducted in our town. We are very thankful to God for these wonderful facilities to be used in His service.

Plastic surgeons can do most anything with noses but keep them out of other peoples' business.

To work out life's problems, we need to add love, subtract hate, multiply good and divide truth and error.

## Perverting God's Patience

God has always been longsuffering and merciful. One reason the Bible gives for this is that God's tolerance is designed to bring men to repentance. In more cases than not, though, His patience has been perverted. Sinners take advantage of it to do more evil.

Two mistaken concepts prevail in our day:

- (1) people think they can escape God's judgment and
- (2) so many misunderstand the goodness of God.

It is not strange that we do not always intend to do the things we know are wrong. The average person admits his shortcomings and someday plans to put them aside. The desire to do good is not so demanding that bad habits and diabolical attitudes are put aside. The good that we would do has a way of keeping us from doing what we could do now.

We seem not to get excited about how little time we have left in this one-way-street world. Unconsciously, I'm sure, but nonetheless dangerous is our conclusion that God's failure to execute sentence speedily is an endorsement of man's evil ways. But the penalty of a crime does not have to come on its heel for justice to be done.

"And thinkest thou this: O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God: of despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Rom. 2: 3-4).

THE GUILTY NEVER GET BEYOND GOD'S REACH.

What a mistake to postpone till

## Acknowledge Contributions

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tomorrow what God would have us do today. We become so wrapped up in thinking of tomorrow that we give precious little, if any, thought to the end of all tomorrows.

If we would apply wisdom to our years serious contemplation will be given to the matter that;

(1) Time is so short. We have so little of it. (Job. 14:1)

(2) Of all the time we have, so much, much is past already.

(3) What we do have remaining is uncertain. We must therefore look to the present, not tomorrow.

(4) Time gone cannot be recaptured.

(5) Where we spend eternity depends on the use we make of time.

God has revealed the end of time but not the time of the end. Do not wait for God to do what he commands you to do. Seek supremely to please Christ. Renounce your will and let God have His way. Put all your confidence in Christ. Repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins.

—Ronald Milton

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

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SUPPORTED BY:

CHURCHES OF CHRIST  
IN THIS AREA

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## You Can Do Personal Work

By Otis Gatewood

Since the days of the Ethiopian Eunuch who asked Philip, "How Can I, except some man should guide me?" people have been seeking personal assistance in understanding God's word. "What does this scripture mean?" Why do you believe the Bible to be the Word of God? What is the difference between the Old and New Testaments? These and thousands of similar questions reflect the attitude of sincere seekers for truth who need your personal help!

Yes, you can do personal work. By this we mean that you can guide your friends and neighbors into becoming Christians or returning to the church or increasing their zeal in the kingdom. Too many members of the church have the mistaken idea that the great commission of Jesus is binding only upon public evangelists or Bible School teachers. The world will never hear the gospel of Christ if its spread depends solely upon those who publicly preach. Jesus knew this and he told every disciple to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mk. 16: 15). Christianity is

essentially personal. If you are a Christian you not only can do personal teaching but you must do it! You are the one upon whom the Lord placed this responsibility. No one else can speak to your friends for you just as no one else can pray for you. Don't think "he can or she can or they can." No, you can!

Too many Christians today are hiding behind the great program of work which the church is doing where they worship. They think they can go to heaven on the combined efforts of the entire church. Nothing could be farther from the truth. God expects each individual Christian to do what he can do personally. You can do personal work if you will. Fill your heart with the love of God, pray for wisdom and zeal. Then go out and begin. Much can be said about "tact" in soulwinning, but no amount of "Tact" will take the place of "contact." Think positively, believe you can, and soon you will!

Let me insist that you start where you are. You don't have to go away from home to do this witnessing for Christ. Let me illustrate. While living in Las Vegas, New Mexico, I became interested in a boxer. He didn't seem to be a good prospect. He thought he was rather a tough guy. But I showed an interest in the thing he was intensely interested in - boxing. He invited me to come and see him box. He didn't really expect me as a pracher to come. He was astonished when I accepted the invitation and showed up at the ring. We became friends and I was able to lead him to the Lord. He soon obeyed the gospel and is now a faithful Christian in Albuquerque.

Sometimes the most commonplace incident provides an opportunity to do personal work. When Weldon Bennett, who now preaches in Hamburg, Germany, first came to Switzerland he handed the boy who checked him through the customs a card and invited him to worship. The young man surprised us all by attending. He not only came, but he brought his brother with him too and both

young men obeyed the gospel of Christ and have now completed their Christian College training and are returning to Zurich to establish a New Testament church there. Think of the effect of that simple invitation. Who knows how many people you pass daily who would become Christians if you would only take time to invite them to church?

Recently my wife converted her aunt to Christ. She was lonely and had been neglected by the other relatives. My wife invited her into our home for a week. They read the book of Acts together. When her aunt saw that all of the early Christians were immersed into Christ for the remission of sins she wanted to obey her Lord too. Why not start your soul-winning within your own family?

Too many people have the mistaken idea that one must be able to answer all the questions prospects ask before they can start personal soul-winning. This is not true. Usually the thing which converts a sinner is not some complicated discussion of some difficult scripture, but the sincere explanation of the simplest Bible truths. People can tell when you really love them. Take an interest in them and seek opportunities to do some kind deed or say an encouraging word. The Swiss boys were reached because Weldon Bennett showed appreciation for the courtesy shown him in customs. The boxer's heart was opened by the interest I showed him. Our aunt was reached for Christ through the hospitality which we showed to one who was lonely. Look for the small things you can do to open the hearts of others and you will find that the complicated and difficult problems will take care of themselves. You can get help from elders and evangelists when you can't answer some question, but no one can speak to the people you can reach for Christ. There is someone you can win to Christ that no one else can reach.

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Unless you form the habit of doing what you know to be right, you will often find your self unable to know what to do.

## Ability to Do

It is the considered opinion of your writer that in every congregation of the Lord's people there is one major and pressing need. It is the need for all of us to learn how to completely DO those things for which we have first expressed a willingness and desire. Such a need is emphatically read into one of Paul's letters to the church at Corinth. "But now complete the doing also; that as there was the readiness to will, so there may be the completion also out of your ability." (II Corinthians 8:11)

Have you ever jumped into something of interest fully desiring to follow it all the way only to find that very shortly you lost the zeal and enthusiasm to finish the part you play in it? It's a simple matter of making big splashes at the beginning but playing out before the job is completed. We all do it in some way or another. The band wagon of big ideas and lofty promises seems to pull us like a magnet, nearly everybody likes a lusty start. However, when the band ceases to play, and the wagon's progress depends on conviction and pulling power of the early converts, the grind is almost too much. Excuses mount into great heaps, and the aches and pains of the once exuberant followers threaten to stymie whatever project they earlier embraced with enthusiasm.

Such is the picture of most church budgets and yearly plans. If all the energy and excitement built into the beginning could be canned and rationed out to the weak perhaps a few notable efforts of the Lord's people would survive the famine of "fadeouts." When a leadership takes much time and deliberation to propose a program of growth for a local congregation by various means, shoots the injection of hopeful enthusiasm through publication by word and print, undergirded always by fervent prayer to God for His approval and blessing, what is the usual result? The local congregation, in part, responds with a de-

## No Judge!

Oftentimes honest, sincere Christians tell me about the sins and errors of various church members and ask me what I am going to do about it.

When I was younger, I thought duty demanded that I sit in judgment upon such people, so I verily "skinned them alive, salted them down, and nailed their hides to the wall"!

I have changed somewhat for I no longer feel like a "small town judge" but am trying to be a helper of the Great Physician whose business is to help heal the people of all their sins, not sentence them to hell. After all, "One only

gree of willingness, ready to jump on the program and see it through the period ahead, but then begins the agonizing ordeal of staying with the needs of the program.

It is here that the shameful "retreat" is depressingly reported. Whereas there was a beginning "readiness to will," there is not that same integrity and commitment to "complete the doing also." Review this in yourselves now. Be ready to practice the ability to do as you have desired.

—W. E. Young

## The Disposition to Downgrade

A man accused a driver of being drunk. As a matter of fact, the driver was sober and the accuser was drunk.

A woman said of her minister, "That man is mentally ill." Her saying was circulated. The minister continued his work, but the poor woman was confined to a mental hospital for treatment.

A brother was charged with gross immorality...but when the facts were uncovered, the brother was found innocent and the accuser was guilty.

The wicked woman, who accused Joseph of making improper advances, had actually tried to se-

duce that pure young man. Gn. 39:7-18. Judas Iscariot, who charged Mary of wasting precious ointment on the Savior's feet, had been stealing from the bag — and really did not care for the poor whom he had proposed might be helped with the "wasted" wealth. Jno. 12:1-6. There was an infernal personality who accuses the brethren day and night. He is the father of all sinners. Rev. 12:10. He is the Devil.

The disposition to downgrade others is due to a weakness in the life of the downgrader — to envy, to an inferiority complex, to a desire to divert attention, to a sense of personal guilt. It is neither fair nor sensible to believe everything. The accuser may be guilty of the specific crime he has attempted to fix on someone else. In spite of the seriousness of such matters they are often humorous. A psychological law is involved.

Advice to Christians: "Keep thyself pure." "Trust in the Lord" "Do not fear what man shall do unto thee."

—adapted from an article by Frank L. Cox

Some people throw away a bushel of truth because it contains a grain of error, while others swallow a bushel of error because it contains a grain of truth. Sift out truth and accept it, but reject all error.

# What is Your Attitude?

Orbie Robbins  
Elizabeth, Arkansas

The attitude which we have toward the following things mentioned in the Bible will determine where we shall spend eternity.

First: What is your attitude toward God? We need to seek God early in life. David said: "O God thou art my God, early will I seek thee". Ps. 63:1 And Solomon stated "Remember thy creator in the days of thy youth." Ecc. 12:1 Again David, the sweet singer of Israel said: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Ps. 23:1 Trust in the Lord will cause one to fear him and keep his commandments which is the whole duty of men. Ecc. 12:13, 14 "The fool has said in his heart there is no God." Ps. 14:1.

What is your attitude toward the Bible? We need to realize that "no scripture is of private interpretation, but holymen of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Pet. 1:20. 21 Also that the Bible contains the mind of God, and is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God might be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good work." Tim. 3:16, 17 The Bible, the word of God, is the standard by which we will be judged in the last great day. Jn. 12:48 Rev. 20:12-15 It is the divine measure by which we shall be measured; the scales of divine justice by which we will be weighed.

What is your attitude toward Christ? If we believe in God we will also believe in Christ. Jn. 14:1 Unless we believe in Christ we shall die in our sins. Jn. 8:24 No man can come unto the Father except by Christ. Jn. 14:6 "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 Christ said: "without me ye can do nothing." Jn 15:5 Paul said: "I can do all things through

Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:3

What is your attitude toward the church? The church consists of all members in particular. I Cor. 12:28 We need to love the church, but to love the church we must love one another. Jn. 15:17 We must bear one another's burdens. Gal. 6:2 If we love the church, we will give as we have been prospered that the church can preach the gospel and minister to the needy. I Cor. 16:1, 2 If we love the church we will be steadfast and unmoveable always abounding in the work of the Lord. 1 Cor. 15:58 If we love the church we will let our lights so shine that others might see our good works and glorify the Father in heaven. Matt. 5:16 We will also keep ourselves unspotted from the world. Jas. 1:27 And offer our bodies a living sacrifice. Rom. 12:1-4

What is your attitude toward this life? We should realize that this life is short. James 4:14, 15 We need to accept the fact that we cannot serve two masters (Matt. 6:24) and that we must decide which master to serve during this life (Joshua 24:15). We should not be deceived for God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap (Gal. 6:7, 8) "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (1 Cor. 15:19)

What is your attitude toward death? We might be alive when Christ returns (1 Thess. 4:17). If we die in Christ we shall be made alive in him (1 Cor. 15:22-25). We need to think of death as being asleep (1 Thess. 4:12-18; Jn. 11:11-14) Daniel tells us that we shall awake from that sleep, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (Dan. 12:2) Those who die in the Lord are blessed and their works do follow them (Rev. 14:13. The righteous have hope in death.

Prov. 14:32) God will redeem the soul from the power of the grave (Ps. 49:15). Death is an appointment all must meet. (Heb. 9:27, 1 Cor. 15:22) How we have lived will determine where we will spend eternity after death the judgment (Jn. 5: 28-29)

What is your attitude toward eternal life? Do not let it slip from you (Heb. 2: 1-3). Paul said "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life". (1 Tim. 6: 12) Eternal life must be the main goal in this life (Matt. 6:33; Rom. 2:7) Therefore we should press toward that goal (Phil. 3:14). We need to try to comprehend what eternal life is. (Jn. 10:28) The Lord said to strive to enter in at the strait gate, for many shall not enter. (Luke 13:34) Jesus says if we will follow him, we will receive in the world to come eternal life. (Jn 10:28-30) Receiving eternal life is conditioned upon following Christ and keeping his sayings.

We can plainly see that the right attitude toward the things mentioned in this article is of great importance and will assure us of having an entrance into heaven the home of the soul. The wrong attitude toward these things mentioned will deprive us of that great privilege.

## PEOPLE WITH LONG NOSES

Man to his wife, "There goes the woman that John Smith loves."

"Where, Where?" the wife retorted as she came loping from the kitchen upsetting tables, breaking lamps and dripping suds as she ran. Doing her best to hurry lest the lady be gone before she could behold the spectacular display.

"Over there crossing the street" the man answered.

"Why YOU! Yes YOU! That is his wife."

—SELECTED

What on earth are you doing for heaven's sake?

Doing an injury puts you below your enemy. Revenging one puts you even with him. Forgiving one sets you above him.

Food for thought: Is it worse to teach error to live in error??

Remember — "You can't live wrong and die right!!!!"

The last day is hidden from us, that every day may be observed by us.