

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Second Class Postage Paid

Vol. 1, No. 12

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

December, 1960

They Believed Because They Heard

Boyd E. Morgan

John 4:40-42 "So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them, and he abode these two days. And many more **believed because of his own word**: and said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying, for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the World."

How contrary to the scriptures is the method of Man's seeking saving faith upon his knees! The scriptures set forth the means of our getting faith. Those who pray for a saving faith, believing that it comes miraculously bringing peace to their soul, err in refusing to accept God's way and in going about to establish their righteousness in their own way.

In the above example, the people of Samaria believed because of his word. His own word. How do you believe in him? By Christ's own word or by the word of some man who professes his own experience of grace. If you are guided by man and seek to pattern your salvation after human testimony you will find yourself seeking salvation upon your knees. You will be trying to **pray through**. It may be true that you do not realize that what you are doing is contrary to God's will but ignorance does not excuse you. The fact remains that you find yourself upon your knees seeking salvation because you **believed man's word** and not **Christ's**.

Prayer is right and good in its proper place but not when one seeks salvation. Faith is the foundation of salvation and faith comes by hearing Christ. Note the passage "and many more **believed because of his own word**." Again, "Now few **believe**, not because of thy saying, for we have heard him ourselves."

Have you heard Christ Himself? "So

Contributions Acknowledged

Wheeling Church of Christ	.....	\$10.00
Union Hill Church of Christ	.....	30.00
Welcome Hill Church of Christ	.....	5.00
Salem Church of Christ	.....	5.00
Mrs. Harlin Smith, Bono, Ark.	.....	.50
A friend of the paper, Hardy Ark.	.....	1.50
Dewey Holland, Gatewood, Mo.	.....	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Amos McCord, Thayer, Mo.	.....	2.00
Anonymous	.....	5.00

NEWS

The Lectureship at Hardy was well attended and the preaching was excellent.

Doyle Kinder teaches a Bible Class at Wheeling each Monday night.

One was restored at Jeff on the second Sunday in November. The attendance at Jeff has been excellent in recent months.

Brother Clovis Ragsdale preaches at Alton on the fourth Sunday and Sunday night.

The young peoples meeting at Thayer on the third Thursday night of November was well attended.

Winona: The new church building at Winona is almost completed. Built of concrete blocks with windows and doors encased in metal frames, composition shingle roof, celatex ceiling, the building measures 24 ft. by 32 ft. The workmanship is of excellent quality. All members at Winona express their ap-

then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17. Again, "How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard." Rom. 10:14.

Saving faith. Try this. "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name." John 20:31. Hear Christ and obey.

preciation to all who have contributed to the building and extend an invitation to everyone to visit them. Since last report the following churches have contributed to the building fund. Salem \$50, Hatfield \$50, Camp \$10, Alton \$25, and Hickory Grove \$100.

The Sturkie Church of Christ conducts an annual homecoming every Thanksgiving day. The Services were well attended with many visitors as well as the home folks this year. Bro. Boyd Morgan preached at the 10 A. M. service and a singing was held in the afternoon. A basket lunch provided a big Thanksgiving meal. If you have not been attending this service, plan to do so next Thanksgiving day.

Bro. C. Ray Miller of the Northside Church in Batesville delivered a lecture on Catholicism Sunday night November 5 at Mammoth Spring Church of Christ. Bro. Miller's message was timely and should open the eyes of all who heard, to the continuous threat that the Catholic Church is to divine truth and her supporters. In response to their realization of the great need the Batesville church supported Bro. Miller and sent him out among churches to speak Wednesday and Sunday evenings throughout the fall. Mammoth Spring had about 230 in attendance for the service.

We appreciate the number of Gospel Preachers we have in Fulton County. Six now reside in the county who preach regularly every Lord's day. They are, Brethren, Charlie Cavin, Sturkie, Ark.; Orbbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark.; Harlie Story, Salem, Ark.; Doyle Kinder, Salem, Ark.; Clovis Ragsdale, Mammoth; and Boyd Morgan of Mammoth Spring. We realize that there are others who preach for an appointment or two during the month and our hearts rejoice that these men can fill so great a need. There will never be a substitute for gospel preaching and the need will be with us so long as the world stands.

Fulton County Gospel News

Published Monthly
Free Subscription

Entered as second class matter Jan. 3, 1959, at the Post Office, Mammoth Spring, Ark., under Act of July 26, 1955, as amended.

Supported by Churches of Christ
in this area

EDITORS —
Clovis Ragsdale
Boyd Morgan

Can a Child of God Apostize So As To Be Finally Lost?

Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark.

In considering this question there are three different positions to take as follows:

First can a blood bought child of God Sin?

Peter tells us that some did. But there were false prophets among the people even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 Peter 2: 1 Jude 5.

John says we all sin. 1 Jno. 1:6-10. Paul says the Corinthians were sanctified. 1 Cor. 1:1-2. Yet there were contentions among them. 1 Cor. 1:10-11. Carnality — 1 Cor. 3:1-3 fornication, Cor. 5:11 and going to law with one another and the before unbelievers. 1 Cor. 6:6.

All of these statements and examples show that a child of God can Sin and Paul said the wages of sin is death. Rom. 6:23..

Position Number Two is:

That Christians can sin, but God will not allow them to die guilty of sin since he will preserve and chastise them until they repent.

Were it impossible for Christians to die while guilty of sin some would never repent and live forever and thus re-fute. Heb. 9:27. Which says it is appointed unto men once to die and after

this the Judgement.

The third position is:

A child of God dying in a sinful and impenitent condition will be saved despite that condition.

But this position cannot be true. Because Paul teaches in Gal. 5:19-21 that they Who practice the works of the flesh shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Again he said, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God". 1 Cor. 6:9. "All liars shall have their part in the lake of fire." Rev. 21:18. Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 5 show by example that a Child of God can lie.

The Bible contains over 2500 warnings against falling. Directed always to Children of God.

Peter says the devil is watching for us seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8.

The Corinthians were warned against falling by different examples in 1 Cor. 10:1-11 and Paul concluded in verse 12 with this warning. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

The Hebrew Christians were warned against falling. Heb. 3:12. Take heed brethren lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief falling away from the living God.

Again Paul said unto them, looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God. Heb. 12:15.

Jesus warned against falling. Mt. 5: 22.

Eating of meat caused some to perish. 1 Cor. 8:1-11, Not Physically but Spiritually. 1 Cor. 11:29.

Now let us consider some things pointed out in the Bible that will cause a child of God to fall.

1. Lukewarm Christians will be lost. Rev. 3:16.

2. Departing from the faith. If one can believe and be saved, can he not also disbelieve and be lost? If not why not? When one departs from the faith is he still a believer? 2 Tim. 4:1-2.

Faith can be shipwrecked. 1 Tim. 1: 19, 2 Tim. 2:18.

4. In Mat. 25:30, His own Servant was rejected.

5. In the parable of the Vine and branches, rejected for not bearing fruit. Jno. 15:1-6.

6. Rejected for leaving their first love.

Rev. 2:4-5.

7. Will be lost if we forget God Jer. 2:32, Ps. 9:17. The wicked shall be turned into hell, with all nations that forget God.

9. Some will be disinherited. Num. 14:12. They were God's people before they were disinherited. Deut. 14:1-2.

10. It is claimed by some that we are Children of God and therefore will always be.

If that is so, we would always be the children of the devil for that is what we were before we became Children of God. Anyway, we are adopted Children.

11. If the unrighteous can go to heaven, then heaven is a place for the unrighteous as well as the righteous.

Study the words "live" and "Die" in Rom. 8:12-13. Is this Physical death or Spiritual death? No one would dare assume that it is physical death but rather Spiritual.

Now in conclusion the Bible plainly teaches that eternal life is conditional. 1 Pet. 1:5-11 It further teaches that we only have eternal life in promise in this life. 1 Jno. 2:25 and have it in our possession or in fact in the world to come. Mk. 10:28-30. We also hope for eternal life. Tit. 1:2, Rom. 8:24

As the Judgement scene is pictured by Matthew The Wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal Mt. 25:46.

This shows that we receive eternal life in its absolute sense in heaven and not during this life.

"I Am Dore"

Dore, the famous painter, once lost his passport while traveling in a foreign country. When the official demanded it, he said: "I am sorry to say that I have lost my passport. I can only tell you I am Dore, the artist."

"Ah!", responded the officer sneeringly, "We'll see very quickly if you are Dore" and handing him pencil and paper, he said, "Prove it if you are Dore."

Taking the pencil, the artist, with a few strokes, sketched a group of peasants, who happened to be standing by, with such inimitable skill that the official said, "Yes, no doubt, you must be Dore."

Can the scrutinizing world say of us, "You must be a Christian?" Do our colors prove it???

Why I Am A Member of The Church of Christ

1. It is the only one spoken of in the Prophets. Isa. 2:1-4, Dan. 2:44, I Tim. 3:15, Rev. 1:9

2. The only one spoken of in the New Testament. Mt. 16:13-19, Eph. 1:19-23, Rm. 16:16, Eph. 4:4.

3. It was built by Jesus Christ Mt. 16:13-19.

4. It was purchased with Christ's blood. Acts 20:28, Eph. 5:23-27.

5. It was established at the scriptural time, first pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. Acts 2.

6. It was established at the scriptural place-Jerusalem. Isa. 2:1-4. Lk. 24:47, Mk. 9:1, Acts 2.

7. Christ is the founder of only one Church. Mt. 16:18, Eph. 1:22,23, 4:4.

8. Christ adds to only one Church. Acts. 2:47.

9. The Church is the Bride, the Lamb's Wife. Rev. 21:9, Eph. 5:23-27.

10. Christ is the savior of the Body, which is his Church. Col. 1:18, Eph. 5:23.

11. It is scriptural in doctrine and practice. I: Col. 15:1-8.

12. It is scriptural in organization. I Tim. 3, Tit. 1.

13. The Bible is it's only creed. II Tim. 3:16, 17. Eph. 3:1-5.

14. It believes all the Bible to be inspired. 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:3.

15. It is scriptural in name. Rm. 16:16, Acts 20:28.

16. The members of the Church of Christ, wear only the name Christian. Isa. 56:5; 62:2, Acts. 11:26, 1 Pet. 4:16 Col. 3:17.

17. The Church of Christ was not founded by man. Mt. 16:13-18.

18. Denominations were founded by men. See your encyclopedia.

19. Salvation is in the Lord's Church. Acts. 4:11, 12; Eph. 1:3, 5:23-31.

20. The Lord's Church will never cease to exist. Dan. 2:44, Mt. 16:18.

21. We are not Baptized into a denomination, but into the Lord's Church. Gal. 3:26, 27, I Cor. 12:13.

22. Christ is the Head of only one Church. Eph. 1:19-23, 4:4 or Body.

23. Christ does not have many bod-

ies, but one Body. I Cor. 12:12, Eph. 4:4. 24. We must be in Christ, which is to be in his Church, to have eternal life. Eph. 1:3, I Jn. 5:11.

Will Goodness Alone Save?

Clovis Ragsdale

The living of a good moral life is so compatible with godliness in a person's life that many come to the conclusion that by living this kind of life that their goodness will justify them in the sight of God. This kind of thinking is not in harmony with the word of God. It well might be called the philosophy of Satan. Yet, we do not want to give the idea that moral purity is not necessary, for it is impossible to live the christian life without keeping ones life clean and above reproach. What we do want to teach is that God requires this and more in order to save our souls.

In the tenth chapter of Acts we are introduced to a man who was called a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. Yet it was necessary for this man to send for a gospel preacher to learn what he must do, verse six of chapter ten. This doesn't sound like that a good moral life is all that we need to be in order to go to heaven. After Peter was finally convinced that he should go to one of the Gentile nation, we learn how that the gift of the Holy Ghost was received by the Gentiles, and how that they too were commanded to be baptized, verse forty seven.

When we speak of what saves, I cannot think of any one thing on the part of man which could save his soul, save the term obedience to Gods will, but obedience is a term which describes a series of things which man must do in order to receive salvation. Faith or belief alone, will not save. In James chapter two and verse nineteen, we learn that even the devils believe in God and that they tremble, but this does not save them. No one could find where repentance by itself would save a person, neither confession or baptism in themselves would save or be of any benefit if they were alone and to the

exclusion of the other acts of obedience.

Sometimes the members of the Church of Christ are accused of teaching that baptism alone saves. This is a false accusation. The Bible plainly teaches that faith, repentance, confession of Christ, and baptism by a burial in water constitutes obedience. Because so many today are teaching that baptism is not necessary to salvation, we are forced to emphasize this command. If men would take what the Bible teaches then it would not be necessary to speak so often on the subject.

After one has scripturally obeyed, then a good life is a part of his duty and he will be rewarded for such. provided he accepts his duties as a follower of Christ by assembling with the saints upon the first day of the week, Acts 20:7, Hebrews 10:25, by praying, 1 Cor. 14:15, by singing, by giving of means as God has directed, 1 Cor. 16: 1-3, by studying the word of God, 2 Tim. 2:15 to partake of the Lords Supper in a worthy manner, and by living steadfastly unto death, 1 Cor. 15:38.

All who believe that they can live good enough lives, and that outside of the Lords body, the church, need to study closer, and to re-examine their position by the light of Gods revealed word. Then follow that word as they live in this life, to be sure of heaven in the end.

Great Mistakes

1. To set your own standards of right and wrong and expect others to conform to them.

2. To measure the enjoyment of other people by your own.

3. To expect uniformity of opinion in the world.

4. To look for sound judgement and experience in youth.

5. To endeavor to mold all dispositions after the same pattern.

6. To expect unity in the Church when the leadership is divided.

7. To be discouraged because you do not attain perfection.

8. To worry over mistakes and failures that cannot be remedied.

9. Failure to make allowances for the weaknesses of other people.

10. To consider anything impossible because you cannot perform it.

THESE ARE GREAT MISTAKES!

Is Baptism Necessary?

By Doyle Kinder

I am not responsible for the place that baptism holds in the Bible. For some reason God did not consult me, or any other man, about the subject. Why should he? Man is the created and God is the Creator. Since I am not responsible for its position in the Scriptures, I have not one single word to say about baptism other than what God has said. It seems that one of Satan's favorite sports is to bewilder people's minds concerning baptism. Baptism without faith can save no one and neither is it more important than any other commandment of God, although it is just as important.

Let us investigate the New Testament and see if baptism is necessary. Baptism stands between the sinner and salvation, Mk. 16:16 and I Peter 3:21; the sinner and remission of sins, Acts 2:38; the sinner and the washing away of sins, Acts 22:16; the sinner and calling on the name of the Lord, Acts 22:16; the sinner and putting on Christ, Gal. 3:27; the sinner and a new life, Rom. 6:4; the sinner and entrance into the Kingdom, Jn. 3:5; and the sinner and keeping the commandments of the Almighty, Acts 10:48. Now, ask yourself this question, "Is baptism necessary?" At the judgment day these passages will still be in God's word and will still be as plain then as they are now.

Reverence In Worship Hour

Byron Laird

At the last regular monthly business meeting a discussion was held relative to the amount of noise that is created both during the worship hour and also between the Bible class period and the worship period. There are several solutions (1) If each Bible class teacher would take the time to IMPRESS the importance of reverence and quiet; (2) If the young people would take the lead and sit toward the front of the building instead of occupying the last few rows of pews; (3) If parents would assume the responsibility of STRESSING the importance of reverence before coming

to worship and then seeing that their children do not misbehave during that period of time.

—St. Andrew Church of Christ Bulletin

Does Jesus Live At Your House?

The continued knock brought the mother to the door. A man stood there with a Bible in his hand. Without a word of introduction he asked, "Does Jesus live here?"

The woman, although she was a member of the church, was so upset by the unexpected question that she did not answer. She didn't even remember that he slowly walked away. All day long the man's question kept going through her mind. That evening when her husband came home, she told him about it.

He laughed and said, "Why didn't you show him the church directory with our names in it? You could have told him that we nearly always send the children to Sunday School and that we sometimes attend several times ourselves. Why didn't you tell him that we give a little to the church and look upon ourselves as a respected Christian family?"

"Yes," she said, "all that you said is true, and I could have told him all that, but I am still troubled because he didn't ask me if our name was on the church roll; he did not ask me if we sent our children to Sunday school, or if we were respected Christians. That wasn't his question. He asked me, "Does Jesus live here?", and all day long I have been wondering if he does.

—Via Sage Ave. Light

Aren't We Ridiculous?

I'm talking about preachers, and including myself in the number. A large number of bulletins come to my desk from various congregations throughout the country. Most of them are "published" by the preacher of the congregation. In studying these bulletins, I have discovered that a great deal of space is given to articles designed to urge members of the church to attend Bible study on Sunday morning. Doesn't it make us preachers appear ridiculous? Imagine

wasting time and space urging members of the church to be present at Bible study. Members of the Church of Christ believe in the Bible. They do not believe in the creeds and disciplines that have been originated by men. Members of the church of Christ believe that you must study God's will in order to learn it. They do not believe in men being divinely inspired today. Members of the Church of Christ believe that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. They do not believe that the Holy Spirit works separate and apart from the gospel. Now when people believe like that you cannot tell me that it is necessary to urge them to come to attend Bible study! They will WELCOME the opportunity to attend classes and study God's word. So, aren't we ridiculous?

—Bristol Road

Church of Christ Bulletin

Card Playing Home

A converted gambler of Chicago said with emphasis and from wide experience: "The card-playing home is the kindergarten for the gambling saloon."

Says Mr. John Bigelow: "Nine people out of ten, when they for the first time, accept the invitation to join in a game of canasta or poker, have no more suspicion about the passions that may be apt to grow than the maid of sixteen when she engages in her first flirtation."

The Christian Index observes: "We have never known a reputable, spiritually minded, soul winning preacher to be a card player, nor have we ever known church members distinguished for their spirituality and for their regular attendance to the services of the church, who were card players. Card playing is not profitable for development of Christian character, nor promotion of spirituality and consecration among others. The tendencies of card-playing, like those of dancing, are in the wrong direction. Just as the dance furnishes victims of vice, just so social (???) card-playing furnishes recruits for the gambling dens."

—Raleigh Christian Advocate

Dear reader, if you are practicing something that will make you less spiritually minded, you better leave it off. Not only will it hurt you but it will ruin your influence for good. You are leading someone!!!