

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

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A BIG DIFFERENCE

Tom Griffith — Mammoth Spring

Men, today, claim to get the baptism of the Holy Ghost but the one men get today doesn't agree with the one that Peter got on the day of Pentecost. The one Peter got guided him to say, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38. The baptism these men get today denies that baptism is in order to the remission of sins, at least the men who claim to have Holy Ghost baptism stoutly deny it. In Rom. 1:16, Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is THE POWER of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Now, by the power of God I know Paul and I know Peter but who are you men who deny their teaching, yet claim Holy Ghost baptism?"

In Acts 10:47 Peter, guided by the Holy Ghost said, "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" But the men who claim the Holy Ghost baptism today, say that water has nothing to do with man being saved. Now by the power of God I know Peter but who are you?

Well, let's hear Peter again on the subject. I Pet. 3:19-22: "By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison, which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is eight souls were saved BY WATER. The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but THE answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Who is gone into heaven and is on the right hand of God, angel and authorities and powers being made subject unto him." Now by the power of God I know Peter but who are you?

In Matt. 16:18-19, Jesus said, "And I say also 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, and I will

give unto thee the Keys of the Kingdom of heaven and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Yes, Peter, had the Keys and he bound water baptism on earth and Christ said it shall be bound in heaven. Now by the power of God I know Christ and I know Peter, but who are you?

Well, you, if you are one who claims to have Holy Ghost baptism today only claim so because you have been deluded by men and truly you are one that is afraid of the Holy Ghost and denies it's teaching.

If you are, don't believe this is true, just quote to any of the folks what the Holy Ghost says in Acts 2:38; Acts 10:47-48; and I Pet. 3:21 and watch them run. Now by the power of God I know Christ and I know Peter but who are you? By the gospel I know Christ, and Paul, and Peter, but by the same gospel I do NOT know you. Friends, I pray when you read this that you may understand what is God's power unto salvation and obey the same before it is too late. May God bless you.

SECRET ORDERS

The question, "Is it wrong to belong to Secret Orders?" should be of grave concern to those who have espoused the name of Christ and who belong to such organizations, or anticipate joining one.

The Apostle Paul said to the brethren at Corinth, "I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." If Cor. 2:1, also in I Cor. 6:17 we are said to be joined to the Lord; and in Matt. 6:24 Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye CANNOT serve God and mammon."

I am fully aware, that no one can find anywhere in the Holy Scriptures the command "Thou shalt not be a Mason" or "Thou shalt not be an Odd Fellow." I also know that the specific command "Thou shalt not gamble" cannot be found, but would any true Christian make the assertion that gambling is not sinful? No doubt there are many good

reasons why a Christian, one who has been "Born again" (Jn. 3:5) should not engage in secret orders, but if no other could be found, the sin of neglect would be sufficient to condemn it.

We are urged by Paul to "Redeem the time" which simply implies that we should "buy it up" take full advantage of every opportunity, and make opportunities when ever possible to further the cause of the Lord, that we might help the unsaved to find the Christ, and also that we might make our own "calling and election sure." II Pet. 1:2, for it is "later than you think." Yes, for many of us much later, and if we haven't taken full advantage of the time with which we have been provided and make ample preparation for the life to come, we need not expect mercy. Now is the time, and the only time we will have to make it. When valuable time is devoted to these organizations, even to the neglect of the services, (and I know of instances of this nature) I am afraid it alone will condemn any who do so, unless they repent.

The above quotations are sufficient to show that we are the Lord's possession and that He is our Master, and expects our undivided service (Matt. 10:37) will further strengthen this position, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and he loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

I realize it is not popular to take this stand for some of my brethren hold to such, but I remember Paul had this to say in Gal. 1:10 "For if I yet pleased men, I would not be the servant of Christ" and I do want to be his servant.

Since the scriptures are all-sufficient and will "thoroughly furnish man unto all good works," it would necessarily follow that a Christian should be very careful not to allow himself to devote time that rightly belongs to God, to the works of man's imaginations.

Since our lives are compared to a "Vapor that appeareth for a little while and then vanisheth away," a "shadow," and "the life of a flower", again the statement is in order, "it is later than you think."

Marion Farley

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By E. Morgan

EDITORIAL

Progress in winning souls to Christ during the past spring and summer has indeed been cause for rejoicing in many congregations. Yet, the work of the church knows no seasons. Too often a congregation depends on its protracted meeting to be its sole effort for the entire year. After the meeting is held the church meets regularly for Lord's Day worship and acts as though there is nothing else to do until next year's meeting. When a congregation gets into this attitude most likely its meetings will become less and less fruitful. One of the biggest hinderances to the progress of the church is the "do nothing" attitude that many places drift into.

In Rev. 3, we have a warning

against conditions like these. The wrath of the Lord will be upon those who are neither cold nor hot, but are lukewarm. An example of lukewarmness in the local church is noticeable in the loss of interest in singing and Bible study.

To be an able singer requires considerable practice. The singing in most congregations is becoming of a poorer quality. Fewer and fewer singing schools are being held. Some of our younger people never become interested in singing. If this condition continues it may be that we will come to the time when it will be difficult to find song leaders who are capable of leading the song service in our public worship.

The same condition exists concerning Bible study. It is difficult to get many to come out to Bible study at any time. Fewer and fewer men are found who are willing to teach. Many make no effort to learn so as to be able to teach and even more have absolutely no desire to make a teacher. Much of the blame may be traced to the fact that there are so many worldly interests that occupy our time to the exclusion of spiritual interests. Christians must be on guard lest they be drowned in the love of the world. We should always remember to put God first. God is a jealous God and will not accept second place in our lives. Realizing this, we should as individuals as well as whole congregations strive to do much more in the future than we have in the past.

Clovis Ragsdale

TODAY'S HEALERS

Boyd E. Morgan — Mammoth Spring

Today's, so-called healers are nothing more than religious racketeers. They claim these powers to draw a large audience to gullible people to fatten their purse.

The power to perform miracles was given to those of the first century, for the sole purpose of confirming the words that they spoke. The miracles were to prove that what they said came from God. Mk. 16:20. I have never known one of these healers today to even claim their false healings to confirm the word. Their use is only to confirm God's power to heal or their own ability as a healer. No one doubts God's power. Of course, He has the power. He can do anything He desires to do. The question is not whether He can or cannot but is "Will God heal today through these healers?" The answer is simple.

He will not.

It is not enough to say that "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Heb. 13:8 for proof that since Christ once used miracles that he uses them now. Certainly he is the same. But, today he has given us his word already confirmed by miracles, and that word is perfect and needs no further confirming. It is true, irregardless to all things to the contrary, on confirmation already given.

Today these healers call people to them and fill their hearts full of hope, deny them the alleviation of medicine or medical cures, and send them away downhearted after telling them, "they didn't have faith enough." They leave feeling the burden of guilt and the sin of unbelief. The purpose of the healers was singular, to get the crowds. They add to their healing services; special singers; string bands; false testimonials, etc. for the same purpose.

How some of you men can haul your old blind, lame, rheumatic, feeble or sick mothers and fathers over roads full of pains and sorrow to such healers and then hear them tell that same trusting old person "you haven't got faith enough", like the healers or preachers were judges or Gods over them, is beyond me to see. Such statements burn me up, for the truth is such preachers are not fit to wipe the dust off the soles of these old people's shoes. They had faith and hope enough to go before the healer and instead of the healer being honest and saying that he couldn't do it, he laid it off on the sick and feeble. He has them so full of his lies that when he tells them this, they turn away full of guilt themselves and let him rave on. They believe then that they (the sick) are just not good enough to be healed. The healer wants them to believe this so he can go on unhindered with his deceit. You won't get him to try to raise the dead though, he knows he'd look ridiculous when he said the dead man didn't have enough faith. If you doubt this, just try to get one of them to the graveyard.

Quit encouraging such tommyrot. Haul your fathers and mothers to the doctors and have done for them what can be done. Quit giving your money to these healers, they'll quit when the pay leans up. But they'll sure bemean you for not forking over.

Well, when some grown person refuses medicine and sickens and dies, its more tolerable than when grown

people gather around some infant and pray and endeavor to heal it and it gets sicker and sicker and finally dies. Sometimes, too late, someone cries for a doctor. Such conditions are intolerable and an abomination to God. It has happened, it does happen and I can take you to the community in a few minutes where it did happen.

They that are sick physically, need a physician.

They that are sick spiritually need good doses of God's word for it is able to build you up and bring you an inheritance in that world that is to come.

There may be those who think I'm entirely too hard. At least all know where I stand, and all modern 'faith healers' may know that there is one man anyway whom they have not fooled. Of course, there are many more. But at least three know better. The healer knows he preaches false; God knows it and shall require it of him; and I know it. My lack of faith in healers is not based on "unbelief" either, for it is based on "faith" in God, through his word. The word teaches the end of miracles (I Cor. 13) when that which is perfect is come. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing the word of God. Rom. 10:17. God's word teaches also that faith, hope, and charity abides (remains). I Cor. 13. These we have today.

No, the 'perfect' mentioned in I Cor. 13:8 does not refer to Christ. He is perfect. He has already come. He is coming again. But the Hope that Paul said would abide will become reality when Christ comes. But the miraculous which was in part granted in miraculous gifts to certain ones has ceased as the Bible said it would. This 'perfect' is the word of God. James explained it with these words: "Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein,—this man shall be blessed in his deed." James 1:25.

Have true faith based on God's word. God is not dependent on miracles to bless his people. He can bless in a natural way. Certainly pray for the sick, but use, too such means as you have to the best of your knowledge. Use medicine as 'the anointing of oil' and ask God to bless the means that are used. God can bless naturally, but the scriptures teach that God never does for man what man can do for himself. God will use NO such HEALERS as we see and hear of today. They are no more than deceivers and as already mentioned, are religious racketeers. Tit. 1:11.

THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD

Many claim to love God. "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of the Father which is in Heaven." Matt. 7:21. But not all who claim to love God will pass the supreme test of righteousness in the judgement, for the measure God shall use will be far different to that that many believe he will use. The command to love God is plain. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind". Mt. 22:37.

We may be deceived about the love that men say they have for us. Men can fool men through hypocrisy, but no one fools God. The Lord knows those who have the love of God. "But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you" John 5:42. Every true friend of God love him. Jesus said, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." John 15:14. He also said "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15.

Many separate love and commandments, teaching men that they must love God, but that God's Commandments do not have to be kept in order to be saved. Those of us who believe in keeping God's Commandments are accused of teaching and practicing 'salvation by works'. To keep God's Commandments are to do the works of God and to receive the salvation of Grace that God has promised us, conditioned by these works he has required of us. They are not works of our own merit or our righteousness, but are the works of the righteousness of God. Salvation is not merited by us re-

gardless of what we do but is a free gift of God's grace dependent upon our keeping His will. "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21.

To separate love and commandments, and to teach salvation without doing His commandments is to signify a lack of the love of God. This could not be made plainer than was made by the apostle John in I John 5:3. "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not grievous." How indeed can we be saved without keeping the commandments of God? Not unless we can be saved without the love of God, and this is not possible.

Boyd E. Morgan

A singing school and gospel meeting is in progress at West Plains, Mo. South Curry St. Church of Christ, October 25-November 3. Brother Leo Richardson of Wetumka, Oklahoma is the singing instructor and evangelist. Singing school begins at 7 p. m. and the gospel meeting at 8 p. m. Everyone is welcome.

SHORTS

A hearse is a poor vehicle to start going to church in.

The older you get, the more funerals you go to. One day it will be your own. Are you prepared?

Better a little chiding than a great deal of heartbreak.

Life is passing; strength decays. But duty performed, work done for God—this abides forever, this alone is imperishable.

Happiness has one advantage over wealth; friends don't try to borrow it.

In the desire we have to help others lies the power to change the world.

WHAT MUST I PREACH TO BE SAVED?

Boyd E. Morgan—Mammoth Spring
Preachers usually are looked upon as persons who cannot be lost. Just because a man is a preacher most folks figure he is heaven bound and a 'man of God' regardless of what he preaches. They call him "Reverend" and occasionally "Rt. Reverend."

The apostle Paul advised one young preacher to, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." I Tim. 4:16. This text teaches how a preacher may be saved. To do other than the text rules would cause him to be lost.

But some people are shocked at the very idea of a preacher being lost. Let a few Bible passages give us light. "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." I Cor. 9:27. "But though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." Gal. 1:8.

Of these things I am certain: I must speak as the oracles of God. I Pet. 4:11. I must not contradict the teaching of the apostles. Gal. 1:6-10; I must not transgress their words. II John 9. "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." I further must preach one doctrine. I Tim. 4:16.

There are some things that I cannot preach and be saved and yet these things are preached by many preachers today. They are: Faith alone doctrine; Mourner's Bench system of salvation; Hereditary sin doctrine; one church as good as another; Unity on the terms of compromise; Instrumental music as being scriptural worship. The reason I cannot preach these things, and the reason that there is no scripture placed after them is the same. There is not one single passage in the entire Bible supporting any of them. To preach them would cause me to be lost.

What, then, shall I preach to be saved? The answer is too plain to err. "Preach the word," be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." II Tim. 4:2. "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Acts 8:4. These need

no explanation. I must preach Jesus. "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them." Acts. 8:5. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." I Cor. 2:2. I must preach peace. Acts. 10:36; Eph. 4:1-4. I must preach faith. Gal. 1:23; Rom. 10:8. I must preach things pertaining to the Kingdom. Acts. 8:12; and I must preach against error. II Tim. 4:2; I Tim. 5:20. "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others may fear." Tit. 2:15.

As to how shall I preach these things? The answer is also simple and plain. Boldly Eph. 6:19-20 and fervently II Cor. 12:15.

FILLERS

"The wicked flee when no man pursueth," quoted the deacon to the minister.

"Yes," said the minister, who believed in aggressive Christianity. "That is true, but they make much better time when somebody is after them."

If fault-finding were electrified, some of us would be power-houses.

A wise man never blows his knows. You may depend on the Lord; the Lord depend on you?

There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about and that is not being talked about.

The great martyrs never reminded anyone of it.

It illustrates
Said a well dressed woman to the preacher, "Did you see my two new diamond rings I received for Christmas?"

"Yes," said the preacher, "I saw them when you dropped that dime in the basket."

Paul says the church is the Pillar of the truth, but some members have never noticed the spelling of the word. They think it is spelled—PILLOW!

The church is full of willing people; some willing to work, others willing to let them.

He who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do anything.

FILLERS

TWO PEOPLE

One was old and knew he was about to leave this world. He had accumulated much and given little. He was worried about what he could do with his money. He could not take it with him. No doubt the cause of Christ had suffered because of his covetousness. Time was run-

ning short and he was not getting any satisfaction from what he had accumulated. The other was also old and time was growing short. But he had used his money for the Lord. Many had been blessed because of his liberality. He was not leaving a lot for his children to fight over. His had gone ahead. Which do you think died the happier?

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In the desire we have to help others lies the power to change the world.

It is not so important to ask if a person is ready to die—but, is he ready to live—in eternity.

We are pilgrims, not settlers; this earth is our inn, not our home.

NEWS

The meeting at Mammoth Spring resulted in three souls being saved by obeying the gospel. One was from Mountain View, Mo.; a Brother Crouch; the other two were Walter and Evelyn Johnson who will worship here with us. May God bless them.

Bro. Steff A. Watson will be with the Jeff congregation in a week's meeting, November 6-12. You are urged to attend.

Bro. Hilliard Story will be with the Sturkey congregation for a week's meeting beginning November 6.

The seven nights meeting at Viola, conducted since last issue, resulted in one baptism. We all rejoiced over Bathis Roe's conversion and obedience. We enjoyed splendid attendance and attention throughout the meeting and look forward to more good during November when Bro. Frank Gould will be with us for a meeting.

The excavation for the basement of the new church building has been dug and the timber for the building has been cut for the Alton, Mo. church.