

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

Sec. 3465 P. L. & R.
U. S. Postage
1c Paid

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"
DECEMBER 15, 1953

Mammoth Spring, Ark,
Permit No. 1

Marion Farley, Jonesboro, Ark.
DO YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO YOUR OPINION?

It isn't anything uncommon to hear someone say; "I have a right to my opinion" and especially in seeking to justify their religious affiliations, (and it seems to get greater emphasis in this, than any other sense.)

There is a maxim that says. 'It is a poor rule that won't work both ways' which I believe would be a good one to apply just here

We all take pride in using good judgement in everyday affairs of life, but as "No man lives unto himself" we frequently find ourselves in positions that require help from our fellow man, and must rely on his honesty and helpfulness on such occasions

A few examples in natural realm will help to illustrate.

A little supposin' will help.

Just suppose you become violently ill, a physician is called and after a careful examination he insists' an emergency operation must be performed, would you be likely to say, something like this 'That isn't what I expected to hear him say, and I don't believe that is what is wrong?. and I have a right to my opinion.'

Or if you were lost in a great forest with nothing to guide you but a compass, and it pointed in a different direction to the one you thought right. would you rely on your opinion?

Or if you were traveling to a distant city for the first time in your car, and should come to a place where several highways

came together, would you just as soon take one as another, under the illusion that all roads lead to the city you were wanting to reach? Even though the right one was plainly marked, but you were stubbornly holding out for your opinion?

These may seem rather absurd, but so are most of our excuses. We learn that Jesus is the Great Physician, he taught that the sick need a physician, also that those in sin are the sick he referred to.

Since he is our Physician, We must let him prescribe, and endeavor at all times to follow exactly.

First, we must keep in mind that whatever his Apostles and others that were divinely inspired wrote, was by his authority and are as binding on us as if coming from his lips, for he said in (Lk 10:15). "He that heareth you heareth me."

Then let us consider some of the requirements as set forth relative to ridding the soul of this awful disease which will eventually cause spiritual death if carefulness is not pursued.

The first is that of hearing, no one can come to Christ without having heard the Gospel (good news) that he died for our sins was buried, and arose the third day, that we might have our sins remitted.

The second is that of faith, in (Heb. 11:6). "Without faith it is impossible to please him for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him", Also Paul said in

(Rom. 10:17). "Faith comes by hearing the word of God."

The next is repentance, Jesus said "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." Lk. 13:3.

On the day of Pentecost, when Peter delivered that great discourse that cut men to their hearts at being told they had taken, and by wicked hands had crucified the Lord of glory; they cried out "Men and brethren, what shall we do? they were told to repent. Acts 2:38

Another essential: part of the scheme of redemption is confession. Mt. 10:32 The Saviour said, "He that confesseth me before men, him will I Confess before my Father in Heaven" We read in (Rom. 10:10). 'With the mouth, confession is made unto salvation'.

Each of these are to be obeyed, but none of them are of greater importance than this last one, which is baptism.

The one to whom all authority both in Heaven and on earth was given, said to his Apostles, "Go teach all Nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost." Mt. 28:19

Peter told those that had nailed Christ to the Cross, "Repent and be baptized, everyone of you for the remission of sins" Acts 2:38

Seeing that, All authority has been invested in Him, remembering also that on the mount of transfiguration a voice came from the bright cloud that overshadowed them saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him", And

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Fulton County Gospel News
Mammoth Spring, Ark.
Published Monthly
Free Subscription

Sponsored by:

Welcome Hill Church of Christ
Elders; Hubert Taylor
Lester Martin

Supported by Moten, Pilot, Wel-
come Hill and Union Hill
churches

Editors; Clovis Ragsdale
Boyd E. Morgan

EDITORIAL

Many will be pleased to know that the work at Viola continues to prosper. Attendance has grown until from forty to fifty-odd meet each Lord's day. We are further encouraged by two families who have moved to Viola that are christians. They profess that but for the church there, they would not have moved into the community.

The building is now going up. The church has acquired 250x100 ft. of land laying on the Northeast corner of Highway 52 and the Main Street intersection. The 260 feet lays east and west fronting on the highway. The lot has been dozed off nicely and is very attractive. Foundations for the building has been laid, the sills put in and the sub floor laid down. Much work has been donated. The building is 32'x65' and will contain two classrooms. Bro. Earl Harber is overseeing the job. We have enough money to build the building, but not to seat it. We build in faith, and surely can provide the way. The building will be finished outside in sandstone, with a composition shingle roof. The inside will be finished in sheet rock and hardwood floors. A baptistry will be

provided but as yet they have no water system. Dr. J. E. Guenther of Salem gave the church a wall space heater and the Viola brethren have raised quite a sum among themselves toward the purchasing of a butane heating plant. This is in addition to their contributions on the building. Those who may believe that they are doing nothing for themselves are badly mistaken.

This is but an example of what we can do when we get out of the satisfied, indifferent state into which we are so prone to fall.

Fulton County Gospel News continues to grow. We are now using slightly more than eleven hundred copies per month. Thanks to the churches that support it, we have no financial difficulties, in spite of the fact that subscription is free. We receive several cards of thanks and appreciation, and an occasional letter of non-appreciation, as always there are those who cannot endure sound doctrine. These have all come from the ranks of denominationalism, and just as no drunkard wants to be criticized for drinking and no provocator wants his hand called, those who are determined to follow sectarian practices at any cost cannot graciously receive unwelcome truths. None, however, have taken the word of God to point out wherein we err. In fact, they have got to the point that they do not believe in 'disputing' as in the example given by the Apostle Paul Acts 17:17. They once believed in debating, but now they have quit. Some, now, even go so far as to say its a sin, I know the real reason they have quit. We get their shep. It is utterly impossible to prove that the doctrine and commandments of men are in accord with the

doctrine of God. We believe with all our heart that the Bible is right, and with it right, then we are right. Fulton County Gospel News will continue to be appreciated by the lovers of light and truth.

The paper could be larger consistently. We have ample funds to make it larger. All we need is your articles, news, and announcements. This issue, concludes one year of publication. Next issue will be our anniversary issue. Why not have your article in it?

In fact there are many things that we can do. It is not a question of money, it is a question of workers. It is not a question of Christians, it is a question of initiative on the part of individual members. It is not talents either, the question concerns the burial and much needed resurrection of our talents. In a section of the country that breeds economy naturally, we have cried wof until we believe it ourselves. Yet we have never failed to raise the money for any project in this section that had someone really leading it. In fact even now we hear pleas from all over for workers. It may be that we have increased our work, however, and increased workers create an increased need for more workers. Let us pray that this is the case.

Are you a member of the church of Christ's choice? Do you have a job in his vineyard? Do you want to work and do not know what to do? We have pledged ourselves to help you.

Boyd E. Morgan

Nobody knows so little as the man that knows too much. He alone is ignorant of his ignorance and the ignorance irretrievable is ignorance of ignorance.

NEWS

There will be a lectureship at Mammoth Spring beginning Feb. 1 and featuring a different speaker each night. Speakers and subjects will be announced in next issue. The lectureship will last one week.

Mammoth Spring has installed a baptistry that may be used by any of you who so desire and need to use it. At this writing it is in process of completion and if not ready by the time receive your paper, it will be so in just a few days.

The Hardy congregation began a regular monthly singing this month that will meet each first Sunday afternoon at two o'clock.

The report from Sturkie is that they had a splendid day Thanksgiving for the past two years they have met on Thanksgiving day for morning and afternoon services and a Thanksgiving basket dinner. Bro. Walter C. Billingsly of West Plains, Mo. preached this year.

Bro. Marshall Keeble will conduct a meeting for the colored in West Plains, Mo. sometime next summer. Provisions will be made for whites to attend.

The Mammoth Spring and Thayer congregations have contracted time for a weekly radio broadcast over Thayer's new radio station K A L M. The station should be in operation during this month. One more opportunity and one more tool to use in routing Satan.

Attendance here at Mammoth is still climbing. During November we were not under 250 each Lord's day. Also our Sunday evening classes at 6:30 are growing.

We have four classes for ages 6-25 and plan an adult class in about two weeks. If you are not attending Sunday night Services come be with us.

AVGERRING MATTERS WITH THE LORD

A Scotsman often remarked that on the whole he was a pretty good man." I've cheated a little and sometimes get mad and swear but then I'm pretty honest. I work on Sundays often, but then I give a good deal to the poor. Never got drunk in my life and on the whole I have a pretty high batting average with the Lord".

He hired a man to build a fence around his field and gave him careful instructions. When it was finished, he asked the hired man if everything had been carried out according to order. The hired man replied "well, it's well built, but can't say it's a'l perfect; just a good average fence. If some parts are weak, others are extra strong, I left a little gap here and there but I made up for it by doubling the wire on either side. I think the stock will find it a good fence, on the whole, but can't say it's perfect in every part".

After a while the Scotsman got the point and said, "Don't you know that a fence must be perfect in every part, or the cattle will surely find a hole to go through?" "Well, I used to think so," the hired man replied: "but I hear you talking so much about averaging matters with the Lord, it seems to me we might try it with the cattle". —Selected.

NEW TESTAMENT WAY

In the ancient days of simple and pure New Testament precept and practice, Christians moved

in a mighty invasion against the hosts of sin and Satan. On the throne in heaven Christ sat in unrivalled glory. On earth the apostles of Christ ambassadors of the Gospel, made known God's love for the world. Christ's sacrifice for the lost, together with the conditions of pardon and peace, to the sinner.

Men in the first century did not limp on crutches of human creeds, nor blindly feel their way from earth to heaven. Instead, Christ was the all-sufficient Creed in whom ancient faith was anchored, and upon whom men built for eternity.

Present day denominations were unknown in that distant day. Their ritual, their clergy, their additions, their subtractions, their "Reverends", their priests, their madonnas, their baby-sprinkling, their confusions were refreshingly absent in the early era of the church. If the simple New Testament way worked then, why not now?

—A. C. Williams

Abstain from every form of evil. I Thess. 5:2.

God not only knows He cares.

There is no substitute for religion and Sunday School. Children are not born criminals. If more can be reached by the Sunday School we shall be much nearer the solution of the crime problem. J. Edgar Hoover.

Life is a measure to be filled - not a cup to be drained.

Always beginning things and never finishing them is like pumping water out and letting it run back.

Do You Have A Right To Your Opinion

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on one occasion he told Peter that he would give to him the "Keys" or authority of the Kingdom and "Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and what so ever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven," We should be quick to recognize the fact that it is a dangerous thing to be guided by our opinions. It is a "fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." He has told us in Rev. 22 we are not to "Add to" or "Take from" the words of this prophecy. If we do, we will be rejected.

Are you being led by the "doctrines and commandments of men" (opinions) for such they are? If so, your worship is vain, for so taught God's Son. (Matt. 15:9).

If it's your opinion that faith is all you need? Jas. says "Faith without works is dead, being alone." Is it your opinion that there are many ways to go to Heaven? Jesus said, "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life" [Matt. 7:13].

Is it your opinion that all churches are right when Jesus said "Every plant my Father hath not planted shall be rooted up." Mt 15:13 Examine these closely, they will bear inspection.

NEWS

Thayer Church of Christ

Attendance November 29 was 145 which is an increase. The average attendance is about 125.

We have an interesting program underway which is designed to help people study more of the Bible to understand Gods commandments.

On Sunday night at 7:30 the young peoples' class meets in

the basement and at present is studying the Book of Revelation. We have about 12 in the class and would like more.

Wednesday night at 7:30 the class is studying in Hebrews and so far it has been interesting and beneficial.

Thursday at 2:30 there is a Ladies Class which could use some more women in it as the class is small and I am sure there are others who would like to attend. If there are those that would like to attend any of these services and do not have a way, and will make your wishes known transportation will be afforded you.

We would like to extend a cordial invitation to you to come.

Want makes the will, and the will makes the man. Not to want is not to grow.

Smallness deplores lack of money to have things; greatness deplores lack of time to do things.

Editors Headache

Getting out a paper is sometimes fun, but it is never a picnic. If we print jokes, people say we are silly; if we do not, they say we are too serious. If we clip things from other papers, we are too lazy to write them ourselves; if we do not, we are too fond of our own writing. If we print contributions, sometimes the paper is full of junk; if we do not, someone wants to know why. Now, like as not, someone will say we swiped this piece from some other paper ---- we did.

If absence really makes the heart grow fonder; then some folks must really love the church at class time.

"Not Slothful in business, fervent in Spirit, serving the Lord". is the precept given by the Apostle Paul. It had been said that nothing succeeds. Success comes of diligent work to he who is fervent, interest in what he is doing.

The man who is interested in the Lord's work is busy about that business. To his mother, Jesus said 'Knowest thou not that I must be about my father's business. His interest led him to a temporary separation from the family at the age of twelve. He continued that interest and urged us to be followers like unto him,

A FEW DONT'S

1. Don't merely visit the church — worship God.

2. Don't stop at the back seat or at the end of the pew—move on up and over.

3. Don't just listen to the singing...join in.

4. Don't play with neighbor's babies while they are holding them...Keep your mind on God and his work.

5. Don't criticize—think of your own faults.

6. Don't wait for an introduction...introduce yourself.

7. Don't hurry away...speak to someone.

8. Don't stay away because of company—bring them.

Are You Talking About it?

When Ben's master died, they told Ben that his master had gone to heaven. Ben shook his head, "I's afraid massa no go there." "But, why Ben?" "Cause when massa go north, or go on a journey he talk about it a long time and get ready; I never heard him talk about going to Heaven; never seen him get ready to go there"

Selected