

# FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You" Rom. 16:16

February 1953

Sec. 3465 P. L. & R.  
U. S. Postage  
1c Paid  
Mammoth Spring, Ark.  
Permit No. 1

## Authority in Religion

Amos McCord Mammoth Spring  
There is in the world, today, several hundred different churches which claim their doctrine is biblical. This of course cannot be true as each contains doctrine contradictory to the other and the Bible does not teach contradictions.

Christ came to establish only one church which is his kingdom. Matt. 16:18. This church is fully set forth in his word (which word is given us as a standard and guide) and is the only church set forth therein. We must be guided by this word, He said, "and if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not; for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world". He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. John" 12:47, 48.

Jesus fulfilled his mission, was crucified to give us the scheme of redemption and the right to life eternal, but before his crucifixion he entrusted the keys of his kingdom to the apostle Peter. "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". Matt. 16: 18, 19. On the first pentecost after the resurrection, the apostle preached the first gospel sermon to be preached after the kingdom was established. He persuaded the Jews that with wicked hands they had killed the Just one, and

they being cut to the heart said, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Acts 2:37, 38. And the Lord added to them that day about 3000 souls and added to the church daily such as should be saved. Acts 2.

I understand the Catholics claim Peter was the first pope, and their church is the mother church and all religious bodies came from them. The truth is the Catholic church came into existence several centuries after Christ's church but if it was the Lord's it is reasonable that he would have named it in his word. Beside Peter would not have fitted the Catholic's occasion, for their popes are forbidden to marry and Peter having a mother-in-law would beyond doubt cause him to be considered a married man. Matt. 8:14. Neither did Peter talk as a pope when he told Cornelius to stand up, he also was a man Acts 10:24.

There are other religious bodies which say that it isn't necessary to be baptized, "Oh it is alright," they say, "but you can be saved without it." This, too, is foreign to the teaching of the word and to Christ's Kingdom for Peter bound baptism. Further in every case of conversion in Acts of the Apostles the New Testament teaches the convert was baptized.

Space forbids writing more, but if we will adjust ourselves to the Bible instead of trying to adjust it to fit our notions I am sure we will find it easier to understand.

## NEWS

### MOTEN

Bro. Ira Woodward preached here Sunday, Jan. 25 and Bro. Harold Jackson preached here Sunday Feb. 8. We appreciate them very much.

### PILOT

We have Bible class each Monday night. Please attend.

### MAMMOTH SPRING

We are very proud of Bro. Ira "Woody" Woodward, Bro. Marshall Holloway and Bro. Harold Jackson, who each having made several talks here at the home congregation have visited other local congregations and conducted services. It is our sincere desire to encourage them in every way possible to continue the excellent work they have begun. Besides them our young Bro. Joe Rushing and Bro. Virgil Boler plan talks for the future We further congratulate Bro. Clovis Ragsdale of Moten for the same work.

The survey of the members of the church in this county has just been completed. Very soon we will have a 1953 directory printed and distributed to every home in the county. There are sixteen congregations with a total of 664 members. Membership is as follows; Agnos-42; Bryon-24; Burk's Chapel-16; Crossroads-60; Elizabeth-20; Heart-20; Liberty Hill-14; Mammoth Spring-205; Moten-21; Morrision-43; Pilot-40; Salem-69; Sturkie 38; Union Hill-14; Welcome Hill 37; and Wheeling-51. There are seven other members residing in the county who attend church in Thayer,

Continued on back page

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 and  
Welcome Hill churches

Editors; Clovis Ragsdale  
Boyd E. Morgan

### EDITORIAL

When mission work is mentioned most people think of sending a preacher into a foreign land, possibly thousands of miles from home, to carry the light of the gospel into lands where only spiritual darkness exists. The need for such work is truly great, however there are a few towns and several communities in Fulton and adjoining counties where the New Testament Church has never been planted, and where people have never heard the gospel preached.

There is an old saying, charity begins at home. In our case we may have in our own back yard places where we may be able to establish the church.

A preliminary survey has been taken of Fulton County and plans are being made for a more thorough survey to be conducted in the immediate future. Should possibilities develop, then the responsibility of taking the gospel to that place or places will be laid at the feet of every Christian in Fulton County. A congregation whose elders would have the responsibility of overseeing the work would need to be determined, and an able preacher should be sent into the community to

hold a meeting and organize worship according to the order found in the New Testament. This is similar to the plan used in Acts 13 and can be accomplished without missionary societies, orders, or any methods not found in the New Testament.

The possibility of hiring an evangelist to work in Fulton County full time with mission points and small congregations have been discussed. Eight congregations have expressed interest in employing this method. The expense would be borne by all the congregations wishing to help and no one church would be overburdened. Many of the smaller congregations now established would be benefited by this evangelist who could work with them in the training of leaders as well as weekly preaching appointments.

We believe the "field is ripe unto harvest" and now is the time to begin this work. We urge brethren over the county to contact this paper and we welcome any suggestions as to how and where this work can be started. We should realize that as long as there are people around us who have never heard the truth that we will not have accomplished our duty until they have been offered the gospel. If they accept Christ then we have gained a soul, and if rejected their blood will not be on our hands.

Clovis Ragsdale  
Moten

### ACCOMPLISHING THINGS Marion Farley

Having spent two and one half months (on Lordsday only) laboring with the Mammoth Spring Church, in the absence of Brother Morgan their regular Minister, I am, in the words of Paul concerning the Corinthians, "Jeal-

ous over You". Seeing and hearing of the work being done in that section, under the direction of competent leadership, coupled with the cooperation of a working membership, inspires me to pen this article.

Jesus said in Jno. 17:4 "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." He had spent some three and one half years in daily service to dying humanity and was, at this time, about to be offered upon the cross for the sins of the world.

Shortly after his triumph over Satan in the wilderness he chose the twelve, whom he named Apostles, to be with him constantly that they might be his witnesses after his crucifixion ascension. Having seen the many wonderful works of God, through the miracles wrought among the children of men, and hearing his gracious truths presented as never before, for he spake "as one who had authority", these disciples were no doubt well fitted to take up where the Saviour left off, especially since they had been promised the Comforter, who would bring "All things to their remembrance" this being consummated on the day of Pentecost at which time they began to "finish the work" delegated to them.

One being the promise made to Peter and Andrew "follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" they surely began using the Gospel net at that time to bring men into the kingdom of God.

Each of them spending and being spent in the establishment of the church and strengthening the brethren until their Martyrdom, "accomplishing great things", and causing the borders of Christ's kingdom to spread by leaps and bounds having the most phenomenal growth history

## LIKE PAUL

Boyd E. Morgan  
Mammoth Spring

Acts 26:28-29 "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds."

Are you a christian as was Paul? But was Paul a Catholic Christian, a Methodist Christian, Presbyterian Christian, Adventist Christian, Episcopalian Christian, etc.?

Paul (by the Spirit of God) commanded that we be of the same mind. (I Cor. 1:10). Now, Catholic people will not use the Methodist Discipline; Methodists will not use the Baptist Manual; Baptists will not use the Westminster confession of Faith, etc. Paul tells us to work those that cause division and turn away from them. Rom. 16:17. Jesus prayed for all his followers to be one. John 17:21. Generation after generation of people have tried to have unity after Man's plan, yet God's plan has been offered to all men since the days of the New Testament. "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."

If the manual is the doctrine of Christ, why will not the Methodist accept it? Why do Baptists refuse the Catechism of Catholics and Catholics refuse the Discipline? Each denomination has its own little book and no other denomination will use it, but Each agree to use the Bible.

We therefore propose this plan for religious unity, in accordance with Christ's prayer.

Let the Catholic throw away his Catechism, when he does so

he will no longer be a Catholic- he will be just a christian standing on the word of God, as was Paul.

Then let the Methodist throw away his Discipline. He will no longer be a Methodist- he will be just a Christian with no guide book except the Bible.

Or do we have too little faith and trust in God to trust His book?

The Presbyterian would throw away his Westminster Confession of Faith, the Episcopalian his Prayer Book. They would lose their identity in the Book of God.

Let every Baptist throw away the Philadelphia Confession of Faith, Pendleton's Manual, Eogard's Way Book and every other creed drawn from the Philadelphia Confession. Baptists People will then no longer be Baptists. They will be Christians guided solely by the word of God.

This is the only plan for religious unity. We cannot unite on any book except the Bible. If there is a better plan, where is it? It is your duty as much as mine to help answer Christ's prayer for unity. The church of Christ is accused of being troublesome and dogmatic. Wherein have we contributed to religious division by adding a creed? We have been forced to stand alone in pleading for God's commands. "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." I Pet. 4:11. "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15:9. If creeds are not the commandments of men, why will Baptists not embrace the Discipline, and Methodists not embrace the Manual; etc? If they are the word of God they Must be embraced, if they are the commandments of men; Jesus said, "In vain do they worship me." No

thinking believer will say that it makes no difference.

There is a way. It is the way of truth. Follow the Bible, the Bible only, and be just a christian, like Paul.

## THE TWO FOLD COMMISSION

Irwin Cowan Moten

Christ gave unto his apostles a twofold commission. 1. To teach and baptise all nations. 2. teaching them to observe all things. Matt. 28: 19-20. Christians must continue in the teaching of Jesus if they would be eternally saved, they must be taught to observe all things whatsoever he has commanded. "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ hath not God. He that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son." 2nd John 9. When born again (completed in baptism) all are babes in Christ and must be fed on the sincere milk of the word, which word is the doctrine of Christ. Christians must never neglect their duty to God. It is said of the disciples. "They continued stedfastly in the Apostles teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread, and prayers." Acts 2:42.

The breaking of bread refers to the Lord's Supper (I Cor. II; 18-30). Observed upon the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Even as God commanded the jews to keep the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8), so are Christians to meet upon the Lord's day to observe his supper. All things that Jesus taught were taught and observed in the early church and must continually be taught until the man of sin be revealed. 2nd Thess. 2:3-8.

The duty of every Christian is to study and to teach God's word that his church may grow stronger day by day. The church is

God's school where his children are trained to live a Christian life and it is under the guidance of God's son, who having descended from heaven is the only one who has authority to teach the things we must possess and do to be fitted for heaven. It is necessary that all things that he taught, be taught. We as christians must teach only what he commanded us to teach. Noting more and nothing less.

"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" John 8:32. It requires all he (Jesus) taught to constitute the truth and to be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2nd Tim. 3:16-17) this truth must be taught in the church. Which is the pillar and ground of the truth. (1st Tim. 3:15). Let us not neglect any of the meetings of the church. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together." Heb. 10:25. Here our learning is accomplished, the will of Christ is taught. God is praised in songs, prayers are offered, the Lord's Supper is observed, giving of our means is practised that the word of God might continue to be taught to others. Preparations and plans are made for the relief of the needy, and christian fellowship is enjoyed.

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" Eph. 3:10.

### CHRISTIAN GIVING

V. G. Boler... Mammoth Spring

The problem of giving has been one that has caused christians to stumble and has been a subject in which many christians have never been sure that they understood and practiced their duty to the degree that God expects. How little can I give and still be pleasing to God is the question

that has bothered the conscience's of many of God's people. We find that men were guilty of robbing God in old testament times to the extent that whole nations were cursed by God; "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings." "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." Malachi 3:8-9.

In Nehemiah 13:10 we learn that because the people had not given their tithes that the priests did not have enough food to support life and their sacred service was interrupted. "And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled everyone to his field." The same is true today. If we fail to give as we should the work of the Lord is hindered, but when we fulfill our obligations we will be blessed as were the people in the days of Malachi. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now here with, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10 We should want to give because God has given unto us the greatest gift of all. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16 The world was in a condemned state about to perish everlastingly and was without power to rescue itself from destruction. Then God through his great love sent his son to die for it which was the only means by which man could

have redemption, Seeing that God has given us such a great gift we should be willing to give even our lives to God. If we are lost it is because we deserve it, but if we are saved it will be because Christ died for us making possible a way of salvation for us. Therefore everything we might be able to give to the Lord is as nothing compared to what God has given us.

In I Corinthians 16: 1, 2 we are told how and when to give. 'Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.' So we are to give as we are prospered and Paul didn't say let all who want to give something, but he did say let every one of you give as prospered. We are told what our attitude should be toward giving in 2 Cor. 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." Too many christians give because they think the brethren expect it of them or from the standpoint of necessity. God desires that we be cheerful givers, doing so with love in our hearts for the church and its work with pity in our heart for the poor and needy. To see our money that we give being used in preaching the gospel to people, who would not have had the opportunity of hearing the story of the cross, should be one of the happiest moments of our lives, and should cause us to want to give willingly and cheerfully. To fail to do so would not be in keeping with the teachings of Paul, because we are told in 2nd Cor. 8:2 of the abundant liberality of

Continued on Next Page

records.

We, Living in a land 'flowing with milk and honey' and enjoying the exalted privilege of worshipping God in the way he has decreed upon the golden pages of inspiration, without being molested or made afraid, we should truly be ashamed of the wasted opportunities of doing good.

In the first part of this year, let us like Paul, "thank God and take courage" and may we make it the best year yet in our lives, that God's kingdom may have a rapid and continual growth in '53, that God and his Son might be glorified and well pleased with the services rendered, by faithfully "finishing the work" he has given us to do.

Christian Giving  
Cont. from page 4

the Macedonian brethren, and Paul exhorts the Corinthian brethren to do likewise. "Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also." 2nd Cor. 8:7.

Worry is suicide on the installment plan.

Hard work is the yeast that raises the dough.

Harvest

"Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest. Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Please compare these words of our Lord with what we hear so often today. For instance, "Brother — could you hold us a meeting in July or August? We have writ-

ten Brother..... and Brother .. but their time is all taken up. We think July and August is the proper time for a meeting, and would not be interested in any other time.

From such talk you would think that the Lord only forgives sin in July and August.

Baptism Into Christ

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ," Gal. 3:26 27. Most people today are willing to be baptised into any kind of denomination just as long as they are not being baptised into Christ. But there is just one Baptism. That is, one baptism acceptable to Jesus our Saviour. You can be baptised into all the denominations on earth and never be baptised into Christ. It was because of erroneous baptism that Paul baptised 12 men as recorded in Acts 19. When one believes the gospel, repents of his sins, confesses his faith in Christ: then baptism in water puts this believing penitent into Christ. "Know ye not, that as many of us as were baptised into Christ were baptised into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death. That like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even we also should walk in newness of life." Rom. 6; 3, 4.

Examine your baptism, whether or not you were baptised to be put into Christ, or if you instead confessed that you were already in Christ (saved; Rom. 8:1) and were just baptised into a denomination. If you find yourself in the same condition as the men in Acts 19, then hasten to comply with God's will. Acts 10;34.

Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.

Do what you can where you are; with what you have.

If a man should come to me to haul logs with a team made up a mule, a billygoat, a bumblebee, and a skunk I would think him crazy, But most preachers have such teams.. kickers. butters, stingers, stinkers,

Be what you want other people to be; but beat them to it.

Never kick up more dust than you can settle.

ATTEND CHURCH

SERVICES

REGULARLY



NEWS...Cont. from page 1  
and Hatfield, Missouri.  
It is possible that there are some members who live in the southern part of the county and attend church at Ashflat. The total of all members whom our survey has located is 671. If you have any reason to believe that you have not been included in this survey, please notify us immediately.

#### HEART...BURK'S CHAPEL

Each Sunday evening we have a joint song service. Services Sunday Feb. 8 were at Burk's Chapel, next Sunday Feb. 15 is at Heart. Bro. Woody Woodward preached at Heart Sunday night Feb. 1 and Bro. Marshall Holloway preached at Burk's Sunday Feb. 8.

Those connected with the publication of this paper are concerned that news and articles be received from all over the entire county. We are especially anxious that the brethren of the central and western part of the county join in this work. Send in items often.

#### PRAYER

Marvin Ed Berry Welcome Hill

There are five conditions of acceptable prayer that we read about in the Bible. First we must ask in faith Rom 14:23; Matt. 21:22; James I;6, 7. Second we must respect God's law, Prov. 28:9. Third we must ask according to His will I John 5:14. Fourth we must forgive those who sin against us. Matt. 6:14, 15. Fifth we must be unselfish in what we ask. James 4:3.

Concerning prayer, we learn in Acts 12:5 that we should address our prayers to God and in John 14:13 that we should pray through Christ. Further, in Matt. 5:44 we learn that we should pray for our enemies. How many of us do this? Jesus, our example, as he was being crucified said, "Father,

forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34. Except we forgive those who trespass against us, God will not forgive us our tresspasses. We are forgiven as we forgive.

In Matt. 6:7, we read that we should not use vain repetition in our prayers. In I Cor. 14:15 Paul declared he prayed with the Spirit and the understanding. This is an example for us today. Verses thirteen and fourteen tells us how to pray with the understanding. We should remember that all things are to be given by God who knows all and who gives according to our needs.

#### HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?

If God gave you the same amount of time and attention that you devote to Him?

If God put as many things ahead of you as you put ahead of Him?

If God offered as many excuses as you do? And if His excuses were no more justifiable than yours?

If God withheld His blessings from you as you withhold your offering from Him?

There was the lady who wondered where her husband spent his evenings, until she came home and there he was!

Smile awhile and rest your frown.

You have probably heard that "drunkenness drowns sorrow." There is a mistake, for drunkenness only "irrigates sorrow".

Increased doses of family alters might cure the prevailing epidemic of altered families.

Jumping to conclusions is the only mental exercise some folks get.

#### RULES FOR BIBLE STUDY

1. Observe who speaks. For instance, Job. 2:9.

2. Observe to whom it was given. For instance. Acts 1;7,8 is to the Apostles, Acts 1;1.

3. Study the context. For example Acts 2;44 and had all things common' does not mean common clothes, common food, etc. While these things are all right. it is not what the passage means.

4. Observe under which dispensation it was given: Patriarchal, Jewish, or Christian.

5. Is language literal or figurative? John 10:1,2, Luke 3:5.

6. Use good common sense as you would when studying any other book. For example, would it be exercising good common sense to say that 'born of water' (John 3:5) has reference to the first birth when Jesus was talking to an old man about how to be born again.

7. Never construe one passage to contradict another. If there is even seemingly a contradiction, know assuredly that the trouble lies with your interpretation and not with the Bible. For instance Eph. 2, 8,9 does not contradict James 2:24.

Children need love, especially when they do not deserve it.

It takes the whole church to take the whole truth to the whole world.

You are not only accountable for what you know, but what you could know.

A lot of little short prayers all along would go far in saying a big one in case of emergency.

None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm.