

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Second Class Postage Paid

Vol. 2 No. 7

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

August 1960

Contributions Acknowledged

Mrs. Glen Stroud, Glncoe, Ark	\$1.00
Mrs. Harold Baker, Phoenix, Ariz.	2.00
Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark.	1.00
Geroge McFann, English Bluff	1.00
Drew Dubois, Thayer, Mo.	1.00
Georgia Ragsdale, M. Spring	1.00
Friend of the paper	5.00
Clarence Edwards, Thayer, Mo.	2.00
Nina Whitesides, Thayer, Mo.	1.00
Robert Risner, Thayer, Mo.	2.00
Welcome Hill Church of Christ	5.00
Salem Church of Christ	5.00
Mrs. Waldo Taylor, Thayer, Mo.	1.00

Think It Over!

A lady visited New York City, and saw on the sidewalk a ragged, cold, hungry little girl, gazing wistfully at some cakes in a window shop. Stopping she took the little one by the hand and led her into the store. Although she was aware that bread might be better for the cold child than cake, yet, desiring to gratify the shivering and forlorn one she purchased and gave her the cake she wanted. She then took her to another place, where she procured for her a shawl and other items of comfort. The grateful little creature looked the lady full in the face, and with artless simplicity, said, "Are you God's wife?" Oh, that is what the church claims to be—Christ's bride. May our actions be such that people can see the relationship and likeness without being told.

—Selected

Claude Hall, who formally lived in Mammoth and Ash Flat, is now preaching for the church in Ames, Oklahoma.

Brother Jerry Jones is engaged in a tent meeting at Winona, Mo. This meeting continues through the seventh of August.

Gospel Meetings

ASH FLAT, ARK. August 7-17. Brother L. F. Mills of Wichita, Kansas is to do the preaching.

PILOT, located eight miles south of Mammoth Spring, will have a meeting, August 7-14. Bennet Land will be the speaker.

MORRISTON, ARK. Aug. 15-24. H. L. Bruce of Pittsburg, Texas will be the preacher.

Tell Me Why

A boy and girl, each aged twelve, go riding on bicycles; the boy wears blue jeans and sport shirt, the girl wears shorts and blouse.

A boy and girl each aged eighteen, go for a picnic the boy wears slacks and short sleeved shirt, the girl wears shorts and "halter"

A man and woman, both adults, go to the country club for nine holes of golf; the man wears slacks and sport shirt, the woman wears short shorts and "halter."

A man and woman, both adults, go to town for shopping, the man wears a business suit, the woman wears shorts and blouse.

Tell me why the difference in dress? In each instance, the temperature is the same of each. The need for comfort is the same Yet there is a distinct difference in dress! The reason for such undress in the part of the female of the species is not comfort, nor convenience. Quite obviously the undress is to attract the attention of the opposite sex, and she is willing to make a spectacle of herself in order to accomplish the attraction. The woman who is forced to resort to such methods acknowledges her inability and failure to be attractive without the use of extreme Modesty.

—Foster L. Ramsey

A Very Successful Meeting At Hardy, Arkansas

A letter from brother Bob Hilburn of Hardy states that the meeting at Hardy resulted in five being baptized and one restored. As far as we know this was the greatest number to obey the gospel during the meetings in this area so far. Brother John Simpson of Hickory Ridge, Ark. did the preaching. In connection with the meeting a very good Vacation Bible School was held. Brother Hilburn states that a lectureship will be held at Hardy later this year. Recently an attendance record for Lord's Day worship was established, when the attendance ran over one hundred and seventy.

Obituary

Mont C. Ragsdale was born in Fulton County, Arkansas, September 22, 1889, and died in Mammoth Spring, June 20, 1960.

He was married to Rosa Lee Taylor at Many Islands, Arkansas, December 1, 1915. To this union one son was born.

Surviving are his wife of the home, one son, Clovis Ragsdale of Mammoth Spring, one brother, Will Ragsdale of Thayer, Mo., three sisters, Mrs. Maude Smith of Mammoth Spring, Mrs. Allie Hufstedler of North Hollywood, Calif., and Mrs. Inez Wallich, address unknown and two grandsons.

He was baptized in 1917 and helped establish the Church of Christ in Mammoth Spring. He served the church as a deacon for several years, and then as an Elder until his death.

Services were held at the Church of Christ in Mammoth Spring, with Brother Boyd Morgan officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery under the direction of Carter Funeral Home of Thayer.

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

Editor— Clovis Ragsdale

Editorial

Less than four hundred years ago this nation of ours began to be settled by peoples from England, France, Germany and other European nations. They came primarily for one purpose. That purpose was to find a place to worship God as they pleased. For more than a thousand years their ancestors had been denied the right to study the Bible and to worship after the pattern laid down in the New Testament.

This condition was not to last forever. Lutner, Zwingli, Knox, and others began to try to reform the miserable conditions that Catholicism had brought upon the world. When it found itself opposed this great monster fought back with a vengeance. Being in control of the governments of the world, it was able to use the power of the sword to try to stamp out its opposition. Great numbers of people were murdered in cold blood. Wars were fought in the name of religion. Millions perished in the Thirty Year War, fought in Central Europe, between Catholics and Protestants. In order to escape the wrath of Rome many many came to the New World, where the power of Rome was not established. Was Rome to keep hands off the New World? Certainly not. Immigrants from France, Ireland, Spain, Italy, and other countries who were Catholic, began to arrive in America. Today our larger cities in the North and East are largely Catholic. Rome began to covet the wealth and resources of America. True they have had to bide their time, but in recent years they have become strong enough to flex their muscles. Attempts have been made to get public funds for financing parochial schools,

where the seeds of Catholicism are planted in the hearts of the very young. Now they are ready to press for the greatest prize of all—the presidency of the United States of America. If this can be done they will have their "foot in the door". They will be on their way to their goal of taking over the United States. They have always opposed the idea that Church and state should be separate. They have never been known to practice tolerance toward other beliefs. We can turn to History for proof. We can see what action has been taken toward our missionaries in Italy, and toward Protestants in Spain and other countries where Catholics are in control of the government of those nations.

Today Protestant America stands at a crossroads. The danger cannot be minimized. Will we surrender our heritage that our ancestors have presented unto us at so great cost? Shall our children be faced with the same situation that is found in Spain, Italy, and in South America in our time. Are we to go back to the Dark Ages when the Pope of Rome was all powerful?

Brethren think prayerfully and seriously over the above mentioned statements. They are not written because of any hatred toward any person, but are directed against a system of religion which is not in the Bible and which attempts to stamp out all who dare oppose them. History, both past and present, will substantiate these statements. We must be on guard. Its later than you think.

C. R.

Are All Religious People Christians?

Elizabeth, Ark.

I know a person must be religious in order to be a Christian, but can he be religious and not be a Christian, is the question that is now being considered.

If he can't then all religious people are Christians, regardless as to what their religion might be. But if he can be religious and not be a Christian, then somebody must be laboring under a false assumption that he is a Christian just because he is religious. Is that somebody me? Is it you? The very fact that

one can be religious and not be a Christian ought to cause us to examine our religion and see if it is in harmony with God's word.

Paul said examine yourselves whether you be in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5). Prove all things, hold fast that which is good (1 Thess. 5:21) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be ready always to give a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. (1 Pet. 3:15)

Unless we are willing to examine ourselves; prove or test all things and stand ready to give a reason for our hope, we are lacking in those principles of common honesty that ought to characterize every person in every relationship of life let alone those things that pertain to the salvation of our souls.

But prejudice keeps many people from examining their religion. Now before pointing out examples of some people who were devoutly religious but not Christians, I want to define both the words religion and Christianity.

The term religion means a system of faith and worship; while Christianity means a system of faith and worship of which Christ is the author.

Christianity is itself a religion but it differs from all other religions in that Christ is the author of it.

There are many religions, but only one Christian religion and of all the religions of the world there is only one that makes Christians and that is that system known as Christianity. So it matters not how devoutly religious a person may be, unless he has accepted and embraced the true religion or teachings of Christ, he isn't a Christian. No more so than a man is not a true Democrat, who has not completely subscribed to the principles of the Democratic Party.

Of Israel Paul said—Brethren my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God. (Rom. 10:1-3).

Here is a case of some people who were chosen of God under the Law of Moses, but that law had been abolished at the Cross of Christ (Eph. 2:14-16). And the Law of Christ had taken its place and Christianity under it became the

only recognized standard of religion with God.

The same is true of Cornelius (Acts 10:1-5) He was devoutly religious. Yet God directed him to send for Peter who would tell him words whereby he and his whole house could be saved. (Acts 11:14).

Another example is in Acts 17. The Athenians were very religious but not Christians. (Acts 17:22) Paul told them they ignorantly worshipped God. Religious, but not Christians.

The Thessalonians furnish us with another concrete example of people being religious without being Christians. Before Paul's visit to their city they were worshippers of idols, yet they were religious. After Paul told them about Christ, many of them turned from their idol gods to serve the living and true God. (I Thess. 1:9)

In Ephesus and almost throughout all As a Paul preached the gospel of Christ so effectively as to persuade and turn away much people from worshipping the great goddess Diana (Acts 19:26-27) Many of these Ephesians became Christians, though they were a religious people before so doing.

Surely no one can fail to see from these examples that all religious people are not Christians, and if that were true in those days, it must also be true now. Hence the necessity of being sure we are right before going ahead.

Being religious is not enough within itself, for only the religion of Christ can make Christians. Every case of conversion in the New Testament is a case of a person who discovered that he was wrong religiously and turned from his error and made it right by obeying the gospel of Christ, thus becoming a Christian.

Here now is a true picture of the world religiously today. Many different religions all of which may be comprehended under five heads.

1. Paganism, or idol worshippers
2. There is the Jewish religion, which is neither pagan nor Christian. They believe in Jehovah God, they do not worship idols, neither do they accept Christianity of which Jesus Christ is the author. They deny that He is the son of God.
3. Another system of religion is Ca-

tholicism which is a mixture of paganism, Judaism and Christianity. The adherents to this religion are classed as Christians, but such classification is made without regard for the Bible's definition of a Christian.

4. Protestantism or denominationalism is still another system, it is a conglomeration of teachings and practices borrowed from Paganism, Judaism, Catholicism and Christianity. Though they claim to be Christian, ie can make no just claim of being all Christian.

The most charitable thing that can possibly be said about denominationalism is that it is a polluted form of Christianity corrupted by mixing with it the doctrines and commandments of men. (Mk. 7:6-7) (Col. 2:21-22).

Of all the more than 250 bodies composing denominationalism, no one group can say "We teach and practice only that which is embodied in that system of religion known as Christianity of which Christ Jesus is the author." That's why the popular saying has been coined "Go to the church of your choice".

Truly one denominational group is just as good as another, but all are strange plants and Jesus said his Father would root them up. Mt. 15:13).

But there is a system of religion that is above Protestantism, Catholicism, Judaism, Paganism, or any other "ism" and that is Christianity, the unadulterated system of faith and worship as taught by Jesus Christ and his inspired apostles.

Christianity believed and obeyed will make a Christian out of any person, but it won't make anything else. In order for a person to become something other than a simple New Testament Christian, he will have to obey some teaching other than that contained in the New Testament Scripture.

I am not asking that you subscribe to any articles of faith that may be outlined in any creed, manual catechism or other works of uninspired men, but I do suggest that you take the New Testament as your only rule of faith and practice. Believe what it says, obey what it commands and its promises will ever be yours to enjoy.

If the New Testament be not a safe guide in all of our religious activities, then there is no safety nor certainty

connected therewith and we are put on life's sea like a ship without a rudder or a pilot without a compass.

But the Bible is a safe guide. It is right and cannot be wrong. It is complete. It furnishes us unto every good work. It is final and cannot be added to nor subtracted from without bringing the wrath of God down upon the ones who dare lay unholy hands upon His word. Truly then all who love, respect, and reverence the Bible as the inspired word of God can obey it and be a Christian.

A Christian's Report Card

Now as school is out, we as parents were anxious to see our children's report card, to see the kind of grades they made. How proud we were if they made all A's or made the honor roll. How about our own report card with the Lord, is he pleased with us? How do we stand in his sight on these points?

1. Matt. 7:21 Not every one that saith, Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven.

2. John 14:15 If you love me keep my commandments.

3. Rom. 12:1 Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service.

4. I Cor. 16:2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.

5. James 2:10 Whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

6. Mark 16:15 And he said unto them Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

7. II Peter 1:5-7 And beside this giving all diligence add to your faith, virtue and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience and patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness charity.

"When Was The Kingdom of Christ Established?"

Bob Hilburn — Hardy, Ark.

All over the world we hear men teaching different ideas concerning the kingdom of Christ and the time of its establishment. Some think that it is yet to be set up while others teach that it has come within the past 50 years. These people believe that Christ came to the earth to establish an earthly kingdom and because the Jews rejected him as their king, he postponed its establishment and set up the church instead. Such reasoning is out of the question! Our Lord knew before he left the portals of heaven that the Jews would reject him and would crucify him. In fact, that is the reason for his coming in the first place since he came for the purpose of giving his life and shedding his blood for the sins of the world. In **Isa. 53:3**, Isaiah prophesied that he would be rejected and despised of man; and in verse 7, he spoke of his trial when judgment would be taken away from him. In Verses 8:12, Isaiah shows that he would die with transgressors for the sins of the world and that he would be buried with the rich. Does this sound like our Master knew nothing of his rejection until it happened? It was God's plan from the beginning that he be rejected by the Jews because it was by this means that the Gentiles could be brought in. (Rom. 11:28-32).

In the first place the kingdom of Christ was not to be earthly, but of a spiritual nature. Jesus said himself, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." (John 18:36) Jesus leaves no room for any misunderstanding about it. Rather than teaching that he established the church in place of the kingdom, he shows that the church and the kingdom are the same institution. In **Matt. 16:18-19**, Jesus uses the two terms interchangeably as he speaks of building his church and then in the next verse telling Peter that he would give unto him the keys of the kingdom.

These things have been presented in

order to show the error of man's thinking when they teach the kingdom has just recently come or that it is yet to be set up at some later date. According to the scriptures, the kingdom has already been here for about two thousand years. Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15) Here we see that the kingdom was "at hand" during the lifetime of Jesus. When he set out the apostles under the limited commission he told them to preach the same thing. (Lk. 10:9) Was he telling them to preach a lie? There is no question about it, when the Lord sent them out he was preparing the people for the coming of the kingdom.

In order to show exactly when the kingdom was established we invite you to consider three passages of scripture. First, **Mark 9:1**; second, **Acts 1:8**; and third, **Acts 2:1-4**. In Mark 9:1, Jesus was speaking to a multitude of people along with the chosen twelve as he says, "Verily I say unto you, that there be some of them that stand here which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power." According to Jesus the Kingdom was to come **"WITH POWER"** during the lifetime of some that were present upon that occasion. When was the power to come? In Acts 1:8 we hear the Lord saying, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you . . . **WHEN?** After the Holy Ghost had come upon them. When did this happen? Please turn to Acts 2:1-4 where we find the coming of the Holy Ghost upon the day of Pentecost in A.D. 33. What was to come **AFTER** the Holy Ghost? The **POWER!** what was to come with the power? The **KINGDOM!** Did the Lord lie about it? I don't think so and I don't believe that any of the readers do either, so we must accept the fact that it came at that time.

Dear reader, I invite each of you to check these scriptures to see if they are true, and if you find them to be so then I invite you to accept the Invitation of our Master and become a Christian. God will add you to the church which is his kingdom. (Acts 2:47) Be **BORN AGAIN** to enter the kingdom (Jno. 3:5) and submit yourself to Jesus Christ, the **KING of KINGS**.

Distinguishing Religious Titles

Delton Haun

Members of the Church of Christ avoid referring to their preachers as "Reverend" or "Father". This is due to a fundamental belief based on the statement of Christ in Matt. 23:8-10.

"But he not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master; even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man father on earth; for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ." The Lord forbids the use of distinguishing religious titles. They are contrary to the spirit of Christianity.

The apostles and preachers of New Testament times did not wear distinguishing titles. Even Paul was referred as "our beloved brother Paul" (2 Pet. 3:15).

Although "reverend" is not in Matthew 23:8-10, to use it violates the principle stated. The word "reverend" occurs once in the Bible (Psa. 111:9), where it describes the name of God.

We have no desire to appear boastful regarding this matter. Such an attitude would destroy the spirit of Christianity in our hearts. We have no desire to embarrass anyone. However, we feel an obligation to uphold the teachings of our Lord without fear or favor. We believe all should heed the Lord's commands and refrain from using distinguishing religious titles.

News

Orville Buchanan of the Mammoth Spring congregation preached at Pilot the first Sunday in July.

Brother Clovis Ragsdale preached at Thayer on the second Sunday in July.

One was baptized during the meeting at Mammoth Spring, with L. F. Mills of Wichita, Kansas doing the preaching.

A letter from brother Orbie Robbins of Elizabeth states that he has time open for meetings later this year. If some congregation wants to have a meeting but has not secured a preacher, write brother Robbins at Elizabeth, Ark.