

# FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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## SO YOU'VE QUIT

Borrowed from Chris Lyles

"I'm not attending church and worshipping God any more. I married a husband (or wife) and he is not very religious, besides he doesn't like the church of Christ and he always fusses at me when I go. So I just don't go anymore. Oh, I was faithful when I was young, I was in every service, but now, well it just isn't like it used to be anyway." Thus a soul is bargained away; God loses a worker, Satan gains a disciple, and brethren in the Lord are made sad.

What can be the thinking of one who will trade a soul for a few fleeting years of domestic felicity? What can be the answer of one, after having traded away his life and soul, when he stands before God?

Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I come not to send peace but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household" (Matt. 10:34-36.)

The person who will forsake God for a husband, wife, son, daughter, for a mother or a father is not worthy to stand in the presence of God. One who will forsake the church of Jesus Christ for a few fleeting years of happiness here on earth will never stand in the company of the redeemed. His lot and his reward shall be in torment together with the one whose will he (or she) bowed to in forsaking the Living God.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PAPER

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## DON'T COME TO CHURCH

Marion Farley — Dallas 17, Texas

This may seem like a rather peculiar statement, but as is the rule in most cases, there are exceptions.

To illustrate, we have heard the expression many times, "don't send your children to Sunday School — take them", and in most cases this is a good rule, but there are exceptions to it also.

The point is, if we are too trifling, lazy, or negligent to make the necessary preparations to attend services ourselves, we should NOT MAKE our children go while we stay home, it isn't being fair to them.

But if the parents are not physically able (and I firmly believe this is the only reason God will overlook), then I would say in this case, 'send them.' But when you do, just be sure that it isn't a convenient headache' or something similar, that wouldn't be nearly enough to keep you from the 'job' or daily activities. This would be only an excuse to keep from engaging in the activities of the church. Shame on anyone who would hunt for excuses to miss services. Hambone's definition for an excuse rings just as true today as it did many years ago when first published. He said: "an excuse is a lie with clothes on." The sad part of it is, people are trying to lie to God. The case of Saphira and Ananias should be sufficient warning against this sin. (Acts 5:1-11).

Don't come to church if you are doing it for the sole purpose of pleasing the preacher, or anyone else for that matter. It may be perhaps you are one of those who will go once in a while if one or more of the members come to see you often enough but this is no good, ABSOLUTELY NO GOOD. What if your minister had to be visited from one to five or more times for each time he came (as I know some people are), just what would you think of him I feel sure you would soon be suggesting

a change and would be exactly right in doing so. I contend the preacher has as much right to neglect his duty as you do. The truth about the matter is neither has any right to.

We must cultivate the habit of attending the services until we want to be present each time the church comes together, and feel like we have missed a great deal when we are hindered. A little girl was once asked why she went to Sunday School and this was her answer, "I go because I want to", and this seems to me to be one of the very best reasons a person could possibly give.

A genuine love for God and his church will cause us to want to keep his commandments, and coming together as the Apostles did in (Acts 20:7) is just as much a command as is any of the others.

Jesus said, Jno. 14:15, "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments." It naturally follows that if we do not come together on the Lord's day, we do not love him, and are openly violating his command in Heb. 10:24-27, which reads: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto live and good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

Forsaking the assembly here is called a 'wilful sin', and pictures a fearful judgment scene for those who are guilty of it.

(More next time)

Bro. Boyd E. Morgan concluded his work with the Mammoth Spring church August 19 and Bro. Arthur Blackwell began his work August 26. We know the prayers and best wishes of the brethren are with them both.

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WELL SAID AND SO TRUE. "The people who are able to be at Bible study and church all the time are just as busy, have just as many headaches, as much company and as many kinfolks as those who do not come—they simply put the kingdom first!"

EDITORIAL

In a few days Bro. Morgan will be moving to Corning, Ark. to begin work with the church in that town. He received an invitation last spring to work with the church there. It is with much regret, that the church at Mammoth Spring, and the many neighboring congregations, lose the services of this talented Gospel preacher. For more than the four years that he has been in our midst, the church has progressed greatly. Much of this progress has been due to the untiring efforts of Bro. Morgan to awaken the brethren to their responsibilities and opportunities confronting the church in this section. His ability to plant zeal and vision in the hearts of his brethren have led to the establishing of new congregations. New ways of reaching people by way of radio have been put forth by him, for example, "the gospel meeting of the air," held in connection with the meeting at Mammoth Spring last fall, was first suggested by him. He alone originated the idea to establish this paper, and much of the success of this paper has been due to his efforts to reach people with the truth of God's word through its pages. His forceful presentation of the truth on the Sunday morning radio program has been heard and enjoyed by many who would not have heard the truth except by this means. Although he gave most of his time to the brethren at Mammoth Spring, yet he was able to inspire the small country congregations to greater efforts, by preaching and teaching on week nights at many

different places.

It has been my privilege to work and to become closely acquainted with Bro. Morgan for the past four years. All will agree that he possesses a great amount of talent and ability for preaching, yet the one thing that stands out in my mind, as to the reason for his success, is his desire to build up the church both as to number and faith. To show sinners their need for the gospel and to encourage those who are already Christians to more diligent service in building up the church has been preached without fear or compromise over and over again. His efforts have not been in vain, for they have inspired many individuals and congregations to greater heights and have resulted in the awakening of a greater desire to work and advance the Cause for which our Saviour died.

It is Bro. Morgan's supreme desire that these efforts will continue to go forward and reap an even greater harvest of souls. He has the prayers of all that labored with him in Fulton County, that his new work will be pleasant and successful.

Bro. Morgan has consented to contribute articles to Fulton County Gospel News and I know that all will look forward to reading the many good things that he will have to say through the pages of this paper.

Some changes will be made in the staff of the paper which will be reported in an later issue, however, the same policy will continue as in the past.

—Clovis Ragsdale

"Then said I, Lo, I am come; in the roll of the book it is written of me; I delight to do thy will, O my God, yea, thy law is within my heart" (Psalms 40:7-8)

This is a prediction made of Christ more than a thousand years before He was born, and shows his attitude toward the Father at all times. Not once did He ever deviate from this great purpose, He could always say, "...I seek not my will, but the will of him that sent me."

The apostle and early Christians, like their Lord, made it their chief concern to know and do God's will. And if we today would please our heavenly Father, we must do like-

wise, for Paul says, "wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Eph. 5:17).

Now this calls for a careful, prayerful and persistent study of the Bible, for only in it can we find God's will revealed. Of course there are many things in the Bible none of us will fully comprehend while we live in the flesh. But we can understand the simple terms of pardon; the items of worship, and the laws governing Christian conduct. These things are essential to our salvation, and God has made them so plain that all who study can learn what "the will of the Lord it."

Let us not think that God will excuse us if we fail to please Him in these things because of ignorance. He did not endow us with our mental faculties, and then reveal His will in such a simple manner for no purpose. **He intended for us to learn and do His will.**

So then, let us give a portion of each day to diligent, prayerful study of His word that we may learn what He would have us to do to be saved eternally. And then, knowing God's will, let us humbly obey, for "blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14).

Good news comes to us from many sections. Bro. Bobby McGuire baptized two; Harlan Price and Mrs. Lorene Rowland at Welcome Hill. Three were baptized at Alton during their meeting. Four were baptized at Elizabeth; two baptisms were the results at Viola. Bro. Morgan held a meeting at Nettleton and had three baptisms and he preached four nights at Burlison, Tenn. which resulted in two being restored. Two were baptized at Liberty Hill in their meeting. Clyde Dale Frazier and David Armstrong were baptized at Mammoth Spring August 13. The Pilot meeting resulted in four baptisms. Let us continue to work and to pray for results like these.

Too many people are interested in the religion that makes them good without having to act that way.

## A TRUE STORY

Once upon a time there were three boys. Their parents were all members of the church. The parents of the first boy did not attend Bible study. Occasionally they suggested to the boy that he ought to go to Bible school, but it didn't seem very important to him since his parents did not consider it so. Therefore, he either slept late or played with the neighboring children on Sunday morning until time for the worship service.

The second boy attended Bible study fairly regular during the early years of his life, but only because his parents sent him with a threat of punishment or the loss of privileges if he did not go. But he did not consider it very important because his parents did not attend, and his teacher usually came in late with poorly prepared lessons. So after a few years he persuaded his parents to let him drop out. He learned enough while there, however, that his conscience kept him miserable for years after he quit. He continued to attend worship service irregularly, but sat in the back and took very little interest.

The third boy, along with his entire family, was up early every Sunday morning with his chores done and was in class on time. The question never was asked at home, "Are we going to Bible Class today?" any more than they asked, "Are we going to eat breakfast this morning?" He always prepared his lessons and took interest in the things the teacher had to tell. His parents taught him to respect his teachers enough that he would mind and pay some attention to what they had to say. They taught him that he couldn't do anything he was big enough to do just because he felt like it. He was very respectful and attentive in class and tried to help his teacher instead of trying to make it hard. He loved to study the Bible. As a result he learned the love of Christ, and in turn came to love Him and respect his word. He attended the worship service, sat down near the front, took part in the song service, and listened to every prayer and sermon.

Third is now an elder in the church—a goodly man who loves the church

and the Lord above all things else. He may be responsible for saving many souls. Which of the foregoing conditions describe the training and example your children are receiving? **CONSIDER WELL THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR BIBLE SCHOOL, AND GET IN THE HABIT OF BRINGING YOUR CHILDREN.** You will be surprised in a few years when they get out on their own what an outstanding difference it makes in their character and in their ability to get along with others and above all: They will be faithful members of the church and it is SO difficult to live faithfully today especially for a young person that is unacquainted with the many and varied temptations of the modern world. Do you love your child? **BRING** him to Bible Class. Do you love your God? Show it by not missing a single service.

## PREACHER WHO WOULDN'T DO

A church was in need of a preacher. One of the elders was interested in finding out just what kind of a minister the church wanted. In order to do this he composed a letter as though it had been received from an applicant and read it to the congregation.

Gentleman:

"Understanding that your pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications that I think you would appreciate. I have been blessed to preach with power and have some success as a writer. Some say that I am a good organizer. I have been leader in most places I have gone.

"Some folks, however, have some things against me. I am over fifty years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years at a time. In some places I have left town, after my work caused riots and disturbances. I have to admit that I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any wrongdoing. My health is not too good, though I still get a good deal done. I have had to work at my trade to help pay my way. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities.

"I have not gotten along too well with the religious leaders in differ-

ent towns where I have preached. In fact, some of them have threatened me, taken me to court, and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records. I have been known even to forget whom I have baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you,—even if I have to work to help with my support."

The elder read this letter to the congregation, and asked if they were interested in the applicant. They replied that he would never do for their church. They were not interested in any unhealthy, contentious, trouble making ex-jailbird; and were insulted that his applicant had even been presented! But one of them did ask the preacher's name and the elder replied—"The Apostle Paul!"

## TWO KINDS OF CHRISTIANS

There are those who say, "I'm a Christian—BUT:" I have to work such long hours I must spend "time off" with the family; I'm just no good at personal work anyhow; I'm paying for a new car or house so just can't give much; I want visitors welcomed, but I have so many friends I want to talk to! I would come Sunday night, but—etc.

What a relief to meet the man or woman who says, "I'm a Christian—THEREFORE:" count me in for all I can do; I'll put the church before my recreation; I'll go out of my way to invite some friends to a worship service; I want the Lord's work to prosper — THEREFORE I will take an active interest in Bible Study, meeting strangers, talking and living the gospel of Christ.

Are you a "BUT" or a "THEREFORE"?

"I'm not going to cram religion down the throats of my children; I'm going to wait until they are old enough to choose for themselves," parents sometimes say. They are willing to take this dangerous attitude toward their own children.

Suppose you did your garden this way. Imagine this sort of reasoning: "I don't believe I'll plant strawberries this spring; I will just wait and see if the garden spot wants to take strawberries or weeds." You know well and good that the weeds will take it.

## "JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES" NO. IV

With this article we shall close our review of the article, "Who are Born Again," which appeared in the Watchtower Nov. 15, 1954. We began a consideration of the third and final portion of that article which is entitled "Born from water and Spirit".

The next statement to which I call your attention is this one: "The promised baptism of God's spirit, their begetting as spiritual sons of God, did not come until the fiftieth day counting from Jesus' resurrection." If Watchtower would have left out that portion of the sentence, namely "their begetting as spiritual sons of God", it would have been stated entirely correctly. It is true that the baptism of the Holy Spirit came fifty days after the resurrection. But it was not the baptism of the Holy Spirit which made "spiritual sons of God" out of the apostles. They were such before they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. According to Acts 2:17-18 the Spirit was to be poured out upon "MY SERVANTS." That is, the Lord's servants. Now if they were servants before their baptism in the Holy Spirit, they therefore were "spiritual sons of God" before that baptism. What other kinds of sons does God have? If one is not a spiritual son he is not a son at all.

We have found the Watchtower to be an unsafe magazine to follow. Folks should not be gullible enough to receive just anything and every thing it says. No magazine should be received in such a way. John admonishes us to "try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (1 Jno. 4:1).

The next paragraph deals with the question as to whether men before the day of Pentecost ever received the pouring out of God's spirit. Watchtower declares that some of them did. While I admit that the Holy Spirit in some way was given to men before that day, I deny that he was ever poured out in the manner he was on the day of Pentecost. Upon that day men were baptized with the Spirit for the first time in the history of the world. (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:16-18).

Watchtower admits that some men were moved by the Spirit. But now read what it has to say in this connection. "Yet none of those men were engendered thereby to become sons of God or had imparted to them a birthlike entiling to heavenly hope." Isn't this astonishing. It admits that some men had the Spirit of God, yet deny that they were sons of God. I have known for some time that the "Jehovah's Witnesses" were a confused group, grouping around in spiritual darkness. It seems that they are trying very hard to find a doctrine that will stand the test. They have changed on different occasions. Their name for example, has been changed two or three times. But they will never be able to find a doctrine that is sound until they discard their shackles, the Watchtower and their publications and books, and accept nothing but the Bible. If they would do this they would not be "Jehovah's Witnesses" but Christians. Thus we plead with them to lay aside mans writings and pick up the Bible and declare to the world "Where the Bible speaks, we speak; Where the Bible is silent, we are silent."

Don Flanagan  
Thayer, Mo.

Jesus once asked concerning the baptism of John, "Whence was it, from heaven or from men?" This question suggests that some doctrines originate with men, and that all such doctrines cannot be binding upon us. On another occasion Jesus said, "In vain do ye worship me, teaching as your doctrines the precepts of men." (Matt. 15:9), and verse 13 says, "every plant which my heavenly Father planted not shall be rooted up." We should apply Jesus' statement to every doctrine being taught today. Is it "from heaven," or "from men?" If a doctrine is from heaven—if God is its author, we know that it shall stand, but if it is from men, then it shall fall.

The doctrine of men should never be accepted into the realm of worship. To impress this upon our minds John wrote, "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God." (2John 9). Men everywhere need to learn that

God will accept in worship only those things clearly authorized in His word. To the Pharisees Jesus said, "Full well do ye reject the commandment of God that ye may keep your traditions." (Mark 7:8-9). The prestige or dignity it may have, or the pleasure we may derive from its practice, cannot make it right if God has not authorized it.

The churches of Christ plead with men all over the world to strip away from Christianity all of the traditions, doctrines, and commandments of men, all of which hinder the evangelization of the world and return to the simple teaching of the New Testament for guidance in things religious. With sincerity of purpose we strive to teach men the futility of worshipping God according to the doctrines of men. We make it our aim to teach and practice only those things which are from heaven and we consistently reject all doctrines and practices which are from men. To a furtherance of His truth our lives are dedicated, and toward a wider acceptance of it we labor and pray and sacrifice.

Let us do as the Lord exhorted Israel, "Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way; and walk therein..." (Jer. 6:16).

**WELCOME! WELCOME! ALWAYS AT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST!** Our aim is to present the simplicity of Christ in all items of worship. Worship in the name of Christ is unique in that all peoples, rich or poor, any race, may worship acceptably by the same plan, in the same manner—"in spirit and in truth." The services and work of the church are open for your consideration and investigation in the light of the New Testament pattern. We whole-heartedly believe such a comparison will lead you to accept the truthfulness of all we do. Come and see!

Some people become big by doing what they don't want to do when they don't want to do it.

The tree will not only lie as it falls, but it will fall as it leans. What is the inclination of your soul?