

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

VOLUME 9 - NO. 6

MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1967

## What Must I Do to Become a Christian?

**HEAR**— "If any man have an ear, let him hear." Rev. 13:9 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom 10:17

**BELIEVE** — Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24 "But 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." Heb. 11:6

**REPENT** — "I tell you, nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Lk. 13:3 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Acts 17:30

**CONFESS** — "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10:32 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

**BE BAPTIZED** — "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mk. 16:16 "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 Spirit." Acts 2:38

"THEN THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD WERE BAPTIZED: AND THE SAME DAY THERE WERE ADDED UNTO THEM ABOUT THREE THOUSAND SOULS." Acts 2:41

## Announcing a Public Discussion

There will be a public discussion of important Bible teaching conducted in West Plains, Missouri and Mammoth Spring, Arkansas, December 26-29, 1967. All are invited to attend. The first two nights discussion will be in the court house in West Plains, and the last two nights will be in the Building of the church of Christ in Mammoth Spring. Time will be 7:30 each evening.

The propositions to be discussed are as follows:

**TUESDAY:** The Scriptures teach that Christians are to "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Affirms: Mr. Robert H. Rogers  
Denies: Mr. Richard England

**WEDNESDAY:** The Scriptures teach that Christians must observe the Lord's Supper every first day of the week.

Affirms: Mr. Richard England  
Denies: Mr. Robert H. Rogers

**THURSDAY:** The Scriptures teach that at the second coming of Christ the final judgment of all people, both good and evil, will take place and then the saints will go to heaven for eternal rest.

Affirms: Mr. Richard England  
Denies: Mr. Robert H. Rogers

**FRIDAY:** The Scriptures teach that Christ at His coming, will take up the power of government, and rule the nations with a rod of iron, and the true saints of God will reign with Him on the earth.

Affirms: Mr. Robert H. Rogers  
Denies: Mr. Richard England

## Contributions - -

(for November and December)

CHURCHES OF CHRIST:

Viola .....	\$ 10.00
Sitka .....	5.00
Salem .....	10.00
Agnos .....	10.00
Elizabeth .....	10.00
Ring .....	10.00
Delhalf .....	10.00
Wheeling .....	10.00
Mrs. Geo. Jones .....	1.00
Harvey Blue .....	2.00
Lynn Hixon .....	5.00
Rex Taylor .....	1.00
Marion Bonds .....	1.00
Mrs. F. N. Fletcher .....	5.00

## HE FOUND HIS CROWD

A man looking for a church to go to, happened into a small one, and heard the brother praying, "We have left undone those things we ought to have done." With a sigh of relief the man said: "At last! I have found my crowd."

- Selected

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Mammoth Spring, Ark. 72554

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## Fulton County Gospel News

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SUPPORTED BY:

CHURCHES OF CHRIST  
IN THIS AREA

EDITORS:

RICHARD ENGLAND  
BILL GRADDY

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our mailing list, without charge to  
you, simply upon your request. Ad-  
resses sent to us for mailing list  
MUST include the "ZIP" code  
number.)

## Paul Watson Moving

Brother Paul Watson, who has  
been preaching for the church of  
Christ in Thayer, Missouri, is mov-  
ing to Kinston, N. C., at the end of  
this month! We pray that his work  
there will be successful and bene-  
ficial for the church. It will be a  
mission field for the most part.  
Brother Watson has a great inter-  
est in his work in that the possi-  
bilities are so great. The population  
of that area is much greater than

here, but the church is much small-  
er. This is a great challenge.

## Some Plans for the Future

The FULTON COUNTY GOS-  
PEL NEWS has been published for  
some time and has been widely  
circulated for a paper of this type.  
We hope it has been of benefit to  
many. In an effort to avoid its  
ceasing to be published for any  
period of time and at the same  
time to relieve brother Ragsdale  
of the burden of so much work on  
the paper, the Elders of the church  
in Mammoth Spring appointed the  
two present Elders of the paper  
as "permanent" Editors. This  
simply means that the paper will  
be prepared and edited by us, even  
though we might move from our  
present address.

The printing and mailing will  
continue to be done locally as it  
has been for many years. Any  
correspondence concerning the  
paper will be mailed to Mammoth  
Spring as it has always been. This  
will be true even in the future after  
a change of preachers should take  
place in Mammoth Spring (al-  
though this is not contemplated at  
this writing). As far as your get-  
ting the paper and writing to it,  
THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE.

The only major change in the  
paper will be that we have prepar-  
ed a series of subjects to go  
through the entire year of 1968  
with related material for the most  
part of the paper. Here is the list  
of the THEMES of each issue as  
they have been planned by the edi-  
tors:

January: GOD IS

February: THE BIBLE

March: HOW TO BECOME A  
CHRISTIAN

May: THE CHURCH

June: WORSHIP

July: CHRISTIAN LIVING

August: DEATH

September: THE RESURREC-  
TION

October: JUDGMENT

November: HELL

December: HEAVEN

You will notice that we begin  
with the very fundamental things  
and follow a definite plan that  
would help those who are not as  
yet Christians. We hope you will  
take advantage of this and send  
us names of your friends who are  
not members of the church so that  
they might get all issues of the  
coming year. The first issue will  
be mailed about January 15. Be  
sure to include the "ZIP" code  
number with any addresses.

We also will have a "QUESTION  
BOX". You are encouraged to  
write any Bible question to us and  
we will answer it to the best of our  
ability from the Bible.

NEWS of meetings, or anything  
that might be of interest to the  
church in your area would be ap-  
preciated that we might print it as  
we have space for it. We hope the  
paper will be of help to you in the  
work of the Lord.

### THE PEW . .

In the Lord's Church,  
There is a place for you.  
Clearly marked,  
The name of it is Pew.

The One who sits,  
Tells a Story each time.  
Emptiness reveals,  
One at Ease in Zion.

If it be filled,  
With a Soul tried and true.  
A great lesson is taught,  
From the one in the Pew.

Each time the Church meets,  
Your place is your Pew.  
Because absence reveals,  
Something wrong with you!  
- Bill Graddy.

Read I Sam. 20-18

There is no personal charm so  
great as the charm of a cheerful  
and happy temperament. - Henry  
Van Dyke.

## Is it New Morality or New Freedom?

Today we are reading and hearing much about the morality and new freedom. In reality, there is nothing new about either of them, but a rebirth or reoccurrence of an age old problem. God created man and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Gen. 2:7. That man can be regenerated from the "old"

## Fulton County Gospel News to Make Changes

By - Clovis Ragsdale

Beginning in January of 1968, a number of changes will be made in the editing of Fulton County Gospel News. New staff writers will be introduced. A wider circulation will be obtained. The appearance of the paper will be improved. Brother Bill Graddy of North Little Rock, Arkansas will replace Brother Clovis Ragsdale as co-editor. Brother Richard England of Mammoth will continue to help edit the paper. The paper will no longer be under the oversight of the church at Mammoth Springs. However, the paper will continue to be mailed and made up in the office of the church at Mammoth.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge all who have contributed to the paper in the past to continue to support the paper. A bigger and better paper with an expanding circulation will need more support to continue to grow. I count it a privilege to have had a part in the printing of this paper during the last fourteen years and I will continue to support the paper in the years ahead.

Cheerfulness and content are great beautifiers, and are famous preservers of youthful looks.

- Charles Dickens.

man to the "new" man is proof that man has a worldly nature and a spiritual nature. The Biblical expressions "outward man" and "inward man" will teach the same. Paul saw this "law" in Romans 7:23-24. There is much more proof but we can confidently conclude that man has a carnal, worldly, sensual, devilish, and animal side, and he is spiritual with the power to become God-like.

In creating man, God gave him the power of choice. Man can decide. He can go to the right or to the left. He can say yes, and he can say no. That which distinguishes man wholly from the animal creation is his spirit, his ability to think, reason, reflect and decide. After man sinned, God drove him from the Garden of Eden. God then placed around the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. Gen. 3:24. God's Word has always been the guard. The law that God gave to Moses was the Cherubims and flaming sword for the children of Israel and the Cherubims and flaming sword for the Christians. The word of God is supreme. In each age, man can be taught and instructed concerning God's Word. Satan is bound to the extent that he cannot force idolatry on any nation. Therefore, man can know and must obey if he be pleasing unto God.

Relative to the subject we want to study the word love to learn more about this so-called new morality and new freedom. From Eros and Agape (Greek) we will see the principle of this study. Eros is a heathen word and is never used in the New Testament to define love. The meaning of this word is nearly always base, sensual, animal and heathen. This love satisfies self. It is selfish. It has no restraints. It does just as it pleases. It is filled with the spirit of revolt. It riots and demonstrates. It makes fun of law enforcement. The new morality and the Hippie movements best

illustrate this type of love. The Bible defines anything by what it does and does not do. In I Cor. 13:4-7, we have a list of things that love, Agape, will do. The word Eros will not do these. Eros love is not kind, it is proud, it misbehaves and thinks evil. It does not love the truth. Many people begin to drink alcohol and attempt to justify it on the grounds that they have a right to do what they desire. About one of every 31 persons in America is an alcoholic. Over 6 millions and 1 million of these are women. One of every ten families is affected by an alcoholic member. Here are a few excerpts from the recommendations of the COOPERATIVE COMMISSION ON THE STUDY OF ALCOHOL which was federally financed by the National Institute of Mental Health which cost one million dollars and studied for 6 years, quote, "Immediate lowering of the legal age to eighteen years, promotion of drinking within the family setting, liberalization of liquor advertising policies, and even encouragement of imbibing by teen agers at social and church gatherings under adult supervision." The report contends that drinking patterns can be changed and drinking abuses lessened, if the emotionalism associated with alcoholic beverages is reduced. Unquote. We must conclude that a wet solution is not the answer to the problem of alcohol. And yet, 57 percent of the people who voted, voted yes in a poll conducted by Channel 7, KATV, to sell liquor by the drink. Arkansas Gazette, November 5, 1967. Eros is at the bottom of this type of thinking. It is pseudo-intellectualism. It is false education which leads to conclusions of this nature. Basically they want no restraints. Little does it matter to them what the Bible teaches, because they are intent on satisfying self, elating self, and self is their god.

Any marriage that is based on Eros is bound to fail. Any couple who marries for physical desires only or to satisfy the animal passions only will fail. It is doomed

## FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

from the start. Physical desire plays a part in marriage, but, when the intent is physical only then it will not last. This is not freedom. This is slavery. Slavery to one's own selfish desires. The results of Eros is Sodomy. Today, as in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, this new morality and freedom are not new, but a recurrence of the sins of these two wicked cities. Whenever man takes the position that there is no laws, no rules, and no regulations, he is bound for Sodomy in the most degrading degree. The soul of man is never so depraved as when he thinks this way. Never is man so alone, so helpless, and so depressed as when he thinks this way. Never is man so alone, so helpless, and so depressed as when he thinks he is without laws, rules and a "flaming sword." This is not freedom, This is not intellectualism, it is eros gone to seed! Paul describes these people in Romans 1:22-32. "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools - empty headed - And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like a corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: - homosexuals, sodomy, LSD. Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature; And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate-conscience, to do those things which are not convenient. Being filled with

all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate-strife, deceit, malignity, whispers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." Can you think of one thing he omitted? Does this not describe our Hippie movement of today?

Our so called intellectuals, who shout God is Dead, There is no God, The Theory of Evolution is Right, and such like, is nothing short of sodomy. These people are naked and void of any understanding of God. Eros, selfish love, is their god.

But Agape is the word that we must see and understand. When the Holy Spirit used this word what did he mean? This love will suffer long and is kind. It is not proud, doeth not behave itself unseemly, it not a smart aleck, and thinks no evil. It delights in truth. Isn't it strange indeed that the intellectuals of our day, are so far from the truth. And indeed they would delight and rejoice in the truth if they had it! Agape is tender love. Example. "For God so love the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16. New Testament love is the kind that husbands have for their wives and brothers have for their sisters. It is the kind that makes marriage a happy and lasting tie. Everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth him. I John 4:7. God is Love. It was this love that cause God to send his son in the word that man might become somebody. With this love, everybody is somebody. God has given man the power to come, to become, and to overcome. Beloved what manner of love the Father bestows upon us that we should be called

the sons of God. He gave us power to become the sons of God and he gave us power to overcome Eros, Sodomy and every bad habit. There is no need for man to become a slave to anything. Alcohol is not a disease, it is sin!, and man can overcome sin. God gave man to be head over all things here on earth.

All men will have problems or "thorns" in the flesh, but God told Paul Has grace was sufficient for him. 2 Cor. 12:19.

We will have trials and tribulations, but these will discipline and teach us if we use them in the right way. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. James 1:12.

Perhaps the times in which we now live are like the times before God destroyed the world by water and Jerusalem. There is a movement now to get on the ballot the legal right sell alcohol by the drink. Good Christian people of Arkansas, let us arise and stop this before it is too late. Our neighbors to the east, Tennessee, has already failed. Some things are a matter of faith, sin with in itself, while other things are matters of self-control or temperance. Eating beans and potatoes are not sinful within themselves unless we become gluttons. But alcohol, other than for medical purposes, is sin. It is not a matter of self control. The drunkard shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. Gal. 5:21. The church is to withdraw fellowship from a drunkard. I Cor. 5:11. No man will become a drunkard unless he takes the first drink. Alcohol is habit forming and drinking one drink will lead to two and finally it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder. Prov. 23:32. BRETHREN, this is a matter of faith, not politics, therefore let us rise and defend the faith concerning this deadly sin, alcohol. Let us show the world the difference between Eros and Agape. How that one is life and the other death. Our lights must shine will Agape.

- BILL GRADDY.