

# FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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## THE CHURCH AT LIBERTY HILL

This congregation is located about one mile from Glencoe, Ark. Not being on a highway or main road there are many who are not acquainted with this church. The church building was once a school house but has been converted into a church building. Brethern have been meeting in this community for almost a hundred years. It was impossible to find out just when the church was established but Liberty Hill is one of the oldest congregations in the county.

Many of the ablest gospel preachers have held meetings here. Among which were S. C. Garner, Clarence Wilkerson, Price Billingsley, Joe Blue, Lowell, Goodman, Gabbert, Osborne, Slater, Conner, McNutt, Tipton, Dye, Smith, Lemmons, Cooper, and several whose names we were unable to secure.

At the present time the attendance averages close to twenty each Lords day. Bible study is held on Sunday nights. There is peace and harmony among the brethern and hope is held for growth in numbers in the future.

## THE CHURCH AT BURKS CHAPPEL

Burks Chappel is located on the road that runs from Camp, Ark., to Heart. Brethern have been meeting here for more than sixty years. Like so many other country congregations attendance has varied down through the years. At the present time, about thirty five meet each Lords day for worship. Having no Elders, Bro. Ford Benton, Jack Holloway and Jim Bob Plumlee serve as leaders. Brother Charlie Cavin preaches on the second Sunday and Brother Kingsbury of Searcy on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Some of the preachers who have held meetings here are: Dick Williams, T. D. Garner, Joe Nichols, F. A. Bailey, Frank Gould, Ado Osborne, Leroy Miller, Eugene Fowler, Boyd Morgan, J. A. McNutt, Joe Pruett, Charles Coil,

## FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS DISCONTINUES

This issue will bring to a close the publication of Fulton County Gospel News. I want to thank everyone that has supported the paper since its beginning. We also appreciated the letters of praise for the paper. I am happy to have served as associate editor with Bro. Clovis Ragsdale in publishing the Fulton County Gospel News. Our ultimate aim has been to direct the articles of the paper to those who are not members of the church. We are sure that much good has been done by the paper. And you that have some friend or relative who is not a member of the church, if you want to send them a paper that will instruct them in the way of truth we will be happy to help you.

I want to visit each congregation in Fulton County in the near future to discuss the Children's Home of Paragould, Arkansas. I feel the brethern at Seventh and Mueller congregation are to be commended for their effort in helping to provide a home for the orphans. It proves how great their faith is regardless of the opposition. Fulton County is one of the thirteen (13) joining counties to provide funds for this home. I will have the desired information of the establishment and maintenance of this orphanage home when I visit your congregation. Keep this in mind and be present at your congregation when these things are to be discussed. I am looking forward to seeing each one of you in Fulton County in the near future.

—Arthur C. Blackwell

Brother Bridges, Bryan, Douglas and Monroe Lemmons.

At the present time the brethern are repairing the building and church yard. A meeting is held each year and several have been baptized in recent years. The meeting held the past summer with Charles Coil doing the preaching resulted in thirteen additions.

## CASTING ALL OUR CARE UPON GOD

Christians should cast all their care upon the Lord. Peter stated in (1 Pet. 5; 7). Casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you. These are words of comfort when things in life seem to go wrong.

First of all we should put forth an effort to live a righteous life. Then we would have the right to call upon the Lord in time of trouble and need. (1 Pt. 3:12). For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. My dear friend live a faithful Christian life and remember to pray to God always. To thank Him for everything, ask Him to help you in everything, anytime, anywhere, God is near. (Psa. 145:18). The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

Many of us borrow trouble. We cross bridges before we get to them. Paul said in (Phil. 4:6). In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. God will not withhold no good thing from him that love and serve Him.

What we need is confidence in God. John teaches us this great fact in (1 Jno. 5:14). And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. We manifest our confidence in God by obeying His commands revealed in the New Testament. Christ manifested His confidence in God by obeying His will. Through His confidence in God and for His great love for man, Christ was willing to die, even the death of the cross that man might be saved. He is our example that we should follow in His steps. (1 Pet. 2:21). Do you have confidence in Christ?

Many of our days are turned into night, because we do not follow Jesus in all the affairs of life. When we fol-

See CARE UPON GOD—last page

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Editors—

Arthur C. Blackwell  
Clovis Ragsdale

### EDITORIAL

This will be the last issue of the Fulton County Gospel News. At a meeting of the sponsors of the paper it was decided to discontinue the publication at the end of this year. The money that would have been used for the expenses of printing the paper will be sent overseas to help preach the gospel to many who have never before heard the story of the cross. There are a limited amount of funds available to send another publication into the homes of our friends who are not members of the church. The name of the paper is the Christian Worker. If anyone knows of someone who is interested in reading a gospel paper and is not now a member of the church please send their names to me and I will see that they receive the Worker for one year. It is preferred that these people live in Fulton County or nearby.

We want to thank all who have contributed articles, finance, and encouragement in the past to support this paper. We have endeavored to teach through its pages only the truth of God's word and to keep out all the opinions of men. We trust that the paper has helped many to better understand their duty, as taught in the Bible, toward living the christian life and has showed to sinners the New Testament pattern of what we must do to become a child of God.

It will not be possible to print all the histories of churches in the county. We would like to mention briefly, the congregation at Morrilton where some forty or fifty attend services, Cross Roads, where about the same number attend worship. This church is located on Highway 62 between Viola and the Lake. At Byron a small band of brethren meet regularly for worship. The newest church is in the Moko community. This is a mission point and needs all the en-

couragement that can be given from its sister congregation. The same can be said for the Camp congregation. All total there are nineteen congregations in the county. Almost all the communities are in or close to one of these churches. It's our hope that these places will continue to work together in peace and harmony and will reap a bountiful harvest of souls in the days to come.  
—Clovis Ragsdale

### THE CHURCH AT ELIZABETH ARKANSAS

It is impossible to determine the exact dates as to when the church was established at Elizabeth. It is probable tho that a congregation existed before the civil war begin.

Joseph McGlasson was preaching in this community before the Civil war, and his son, Israel McGlasson served in the civil war and was also a part time preacher.

About the year of 1875 Harvey King conducted meeting and also Jehoida Ware.

Among the early leaders of the congregation were Dr. Callison and Dr. Niblett.

In later years Henry Stephens, Lowell Tyree, George Huett and Sam Shoemate served as leaders of the congregation.

It will be impossible to give a complete list of all the preachers who conducted meetings.

But we definitely know of the following: E. M. Borden, J. H. Welch, S. C. Garner, L. S. Thurman, F. M. McGlasson, Norman Cooper, Robert Griffith, Dave Griffith, Owen Stroud, a Bro. Lowell, John Newberry, John Howard, S. P. Fields, Steryl, A. Watson, Thomas Ennox, Joe Howard, Harmon Howard, Ted McElroy, Franklin T. Puckett, Dan Ottinger, Elmer Butler, Ross McGinnis, C. L. McLain, Harlan Hurd, Boyd E. Morgan, Max Patterson.

In the year of 1948 a new church building was erected, in 1954 class rooms were added.

The congregation at the present time is under the leadership of Junior Huett, Robert Stephens and Horace Robbins.

The attendance on Lord's Days will average around 40. The congregation has mid-week services with attendance around 35 or 40. They also have two

meetings each year. Preaching once a month, and help support the Southern Christian Orphan's Home at Morrilton, Arkansas.

### UNITY

When one surveys the Christian world today he cannot help but be dismayed over the lack of unity to be found among good people who all desire to serve their Creator. The different beliefs in the United States alone have been numbred at well over two hundred. All these different churches claim to get their teachings and doctrine from the same Book, the Bible. Yet we know that the Bible does not contradict itself, for no one has been able to prove any contradiction within its pages. The only conclusion to be reached is that man is substituting his own opinion for the teachings of the Bible.

Many have arrived at the conclusion that this division is justified and that God will not be displeased with such. The apostle Paul answers this doctrine very clearly in 1 Cor., chapters one through three. The divisions in the church at Corinth were condemned by Paul in no uncertain terms. Notice verse 3, of Chapter 3, where he states that they were carnal and walk as men because they were divided. Notice the prayer of Christ just before his death on the cross as recorded in John 17:20, 21, 22, 23, 24. The reason why Christ prayed that His followers all be one is given in verse 21, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may also may be one in us: That the world may believe that thou hast sent me". There is no way of knowing how many souls have been lost because of religious division. There in no scripture in all of the Bible to justify the condition that now exists in the religious world.

What can be done to remedy this situation? There can only be one answer. To take the Bible as our one and only guide. To lay aside creeds, manuals, edicts of counsels, Popes and the such like, and take only the thing contained in the Word. This would get away from the ideas of men which are so prevalent today. This may sound to simple as an answer to such a staggering problem, yet Christianity is not a mysterious, high

minded thing. It was intended to be simple and to be for the meek and lowly class of people, and because of this Paul said in 1 Cor. 1:26,27: "For ye see your calling, brethern, how that not many wie men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise: and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty".

As this is the last issue of this paper I want to close on the theme that the greatest need for people today is to lay aside their own ideas and opinions and to worship the Lord according to His way. To do this is the way that is right and cannot be wrong. To do otherwise is to jeopardise the salvation of our souls because of disobedience to Gods will and to lose our souls in the end, a terrible thing to think about. We cannot dodge our responsibilities to God, we must meet them while we are here in this world, for life is fleeting and as a vapour, James 4:14. I would like to end this article by giving the admonition made by Paul in 1 Cor. 15:58, "Therefore my beloved brethern, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, foreasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord".

If there are any congregations who are in need of a preacher to conduct a meeting during any part of 1958, I know of two sound gospel preachers who can arrange time during most any part of the year. You may secure their address by writing Clovis Ragsdale at Mammoth Spring, Ark., Route 3.

The church at Thayer has almost completed a new home for their preacher.

We would like to remind all our readers of the Radio program each Sunday morning at nine o'clock over KALM.

Brother Clovis Ragsdale attended the lecturship at Harding college during Thanksgiving week.

Even the smallest good deed you perform is better than the grandest intention.

Have you known people you could read like a book, but could not shut up as easily?

## ESSENTIALS AND NON-ESSENTIALS

It is extremely important that we know what is ESSENTIAL, in the realm of religion, that we confuse them not, with those that are, NON-ESSENTIAL.

It had been prophesied by Moses, (Deut. 18:15), that Christ would come, to whom men would "hearken" as they did to himself, and those who would not, would be condemned.

The apostle Peter, in Acts 3, said he had come, and referred to this scripture, as well as others, as proof the prophecies had been fulfilled, and His commands were FINAL.

Since ALL authority had been given to him, in all things that pertain to our eternal destiny, we seek only to please him, and to him we listen.

In (Mk. 15:16), he gave the command to "GO", is is ESSENTIAL, in order to obey this command, that a person go (travel), but it does not say by any particular means.

One might ride a mule, a bus, plane, or a great number of other ways, for it has been left up to the individual to choose for himself in this matter, and would be purely "NON-ESSENTIAL".

Not only was it ESSENTIAL to "Go" but it was commanded, "Preach the gospel", men must know about the Christ before faith can be produced in their hearts, without which they could never "please God", (Heb. 11:6).

But the manner of preaching (teaching), was left up to the teacher, it may be by class, radio, chart, or many other ways, even our Lord did not use the same method in every instance, sometimes he would teach individually, at others a great multitude, as one time he would refer to the scripture, at another in parables.

In administering baptism, it was ESSENTIAL to have enough water to, "go down into", and, "come up out of", to cover a person up in, for in (Rom. 6:4), it is referred to, as a "burial".

A few things that are NON-ESSENTIAL are, whether it is done in running water, or baptistry, or in cold water or warm.

A number of things are ESSENTIAL with regard to "The Lord's supper", by the early disciples, it was taken on "The first day of the week" (Acts 20:7), and not on Thursday or any other day of the week as far as we are told.

Not only was it ESSENTIAL to eat the

"bread" and drink the "cup", but also to "discern" the body and blood of the Lord in doing so.

The time of day, whether fermented wine, or unfermented was used was NON-ESSENTIAL, as long as it was done on "The first day", someone asks, which first day? The answer, under the law of Moses, which "Sabbath" was to be kept holy? The sabbath was the seventh day of the week, each week had a seventh day, each week has a "first day".

We learn "All thy commandments are righteousness", it would be absurd to claim any righteous command of God to be NON-ESSENTIAL, it is true, many do not apply to us today, but were given to people in a different age, but we must be very careful not to term any that have been given to us NON-ESSENTIAL, lest in the day of judgment we be "found wanting", for we read in (Jas. 2:10), if we keep all the law but one point, we will be condemned for this failure.

## WHY PICK ON THE PREACHER

If a telegram boy brought you a message revealing news of misfortune, trouble and impending distress, it would be well to be courteous and thank him. However, in your sorrow, it would be the wrong thing to do if you blamed, criticized, and "cussed" the boy for bringing the message. After all, the boy just delivered the message. You can see that. So why pick the preacher to pieces when he shows you by the word of the Lord that you are out of line with God's will, and have God's judgment against you because of your conduct? After all, he is only the messenger bringing the facts of the case. —A Dallas, Tex., Bulletin via Cleveland, Miss., Bulletin.

The entire object of true education is to make people not merely to do the right thing, but to enjoy the right thing, not merely industrious, but to love industry; not merely pure, but to love purity; not merely just, but to hunger and thirst after justice; Education does not mean teaching people to know what they do not know—it means teaching them to behave as they do not behave.

—Ruskin

low the Lord we walk in light (Jno 8:12). Failing to walk in the commands of our Lord brings heartache and many sorrows upon us. Men want to serve God and Satan at the same time, but this cannot be done. Jesus said ye cannot serve God and mammon (Mt. 6:24).

Let us look to God and never doubt His holy word, and all will be well with us in this life and in the life to come. The Lord in the sermon on the mount teaches that our life is more than meat and body than raiment. He also said that we are much better than the fowls of the air. They sow not neither do they reap, nor gather into barns: Yet our heavenly Father feedeth them. And, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you. O yet of little faith? Let us have faith in God and what the Bible teaches.

People who pray daily and realize their ever dependence upon God will never get so far from the shore of safety that they cannot return. Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Lonnie J. Smith,  
Thayer, Mo.

## WORTH REPEATING

"He tells those who see his manner of dress that he is a successful man. He tells those who see his home that he is a successful man. He tells those who see his car that he is successful. But he tells the Lord and those who see his contribution that he is a financial failure, able to give only a dollar each Sunday."  
—Cleon Lyles

## COST OF CONSCIENCE

The preacher arose to address the congregation. He began, "There is a certain man among us today who is flirting with another man's wife. Unless he puts \$5 in the collection, his name will be read from the pulpit."

When the contribution was counted, there were nineteen five-dollar bills, and a two-dollar bill with this note attached: "Other three payday."  
—Selected

## THE MODEL CHURCH

By W. S. Boyett

"So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being edified; and, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit was multiplied." (Acts. 9:31.)

The growth of the church during the first century has been one of the amazing things of all history. A few uneducated men started out in the very midst of the established religion of Judaism to preach the gospel, and within a period of fifty years the gospel had covered the entire Roman Empire. Many times we read in the Acts that the number of the disciples was multiplied. Leaders in the church in our time are asking why such growth and what were the causes of such rapid growth. I believe that the passage at the head of this article supplies an answer to these questions. Here, in brief form, is a description of the church in that time. I call your attention to five things about this church that should be noted closely.

### This Was a Peaceful Church

"So the church had peace. This church was free from division and faction. The members, whether in a local sense or a universal sense, were peacemakers. They were following the Prince of Peace and imitating His life. There were no church "splitters" in the church during this time. I think that it is significant that this church follows immediately after the conversion of Saul. Saul was one of the greatest persecutors the church has ever had. He was making did not attain to this wonderful status during a period of time when there was no opposition, but in the midst of severe persecution. The church did not make peace with Saul the persecutor by compromising with him, nor by destroying him with the ridicule and severe criticism, but by converting him. There was strength in the church because it was united. A divided church will never convert the world. There were no talebearers in this church. If there had been there would not have been peace. Solomon said: "Where there is no wood the fire goeth out, even so where there is no talebearer the strife ceaseth." (Prov. 26:20.)

## DYING BY DEGREES

In an experimental laboratory, a frog was placed in a container of water and was heated at the rate of .036 of a degree per second. This frog did not react to the change. When the temperature of the water finally reached 140 degrees F. H., the frog died. But it had not been aware of any temperature change.

This frog died by degrees, and like a lot of church members and some churches, the poor frog did not realize he was dying. So it is with the man who becomes unfaithful to his Lord; he does not do so "overnight", for it happens to him by degrees. He begins to miss a service occasionally, thinking little of it. He then misses more often at that service, and soon is absent from other services. Finally, he has quit coming altogether.

It may be that others still attend services, but their lives lack that inner fervor and devotion they once had. How did they get in that condition? Usually, just by degrees. They just gradually omitted prayer, Bible study, and personal consecration from their lives until there just remained the shell of what had been a real Christian.

No doubt you will agree that we have that condition here. We need a good jolt of some kind to awaken us to our condition. A spiritually sick Christian is like a man who is lost in a snow storm. As he becomes nearly frozen; a feeling of warmth and wellbeing takes the place of the fear of freezing so that the man fights any attempt to keep him active. He wants to be left alone so he can go to sleep!

Are you so nearly dead spiritually that you resent any effort to revive you? Have you become so content and sleepy as to be unaware of your danger? Eternity is at stake! AWAKE! —Adapted

"The mind is like the stomach; it counts, but how much you digest."  
counts, but how much you digest."

"All who are on the right side are on the same side."