

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Second Class Mailing Permit applied

for Mammoth Springs, Arkansas

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Fulton County Gospel News Resumes Publication

Clovis Ragsdale

Beginning with this issue the Fulton County Gospel News will again be published monthly, after an absence of more than a year. The paper was resumed due to popular demand on the part of many brethren over the area in the belief that a religious publication of this type is needed to help keep the gospel before the people and as a help in encouraging brethren to be more active in the Lords work. It will be the aim of the editors to keep before the brotherhood the different efforts that will be put forth by the various congregations from time to time. Also we will publish many articles dealing with the question of "what must I do to be saved". The false doctrines of men will be opposed at all times, as will all other types of sin. No room will be found in this paper for the promotion of any hobby. We urge all who receive this paper to, in the quietness of their own home, read and meditate on the various articles to be written in the paper, checking with the scriptures for proof of what is being taught and if found to be the truth, then to put it in to practice in your life.

Brother Wesley Hylton, who labors with the church at Mammoth Spring, and the writer will serve as editors. Staff writers will include Don Smith, Orby Robbins, Boyd Morgan, Bennett Land, and others. The church at Ash Flat, Wheeling, Salem, and Union Hall will contribute toward the printing and mailing expense. Donations will be accepted and acknowledged. There is need of one more congregation to help toward the support in the amount of some five or ten dollars per month.

We welcome any item of news which

MAILING LIST

All the out of state people who previously received the "News" will not be on the mailing list. It is impossible to determine if the old addresses are correct without contacting each one. This cannot be done at the present time. New names will be added to the list from time to time. If you know of anyone that received the "News" before, please advise them to send in their correct name and address.

DAILY RADIO PROGRAM

Tell all your friends and neighbors about the new program on K A L M, 1290 KC, Thayer, Mo. The program is broadcast daily at 11:30 to 11:45. The Sunday program remains at the old time, 9:00 AM. Bro. Hylton and Bro. Don Smith alternate as speakers. It is hoped that others in the area will also help.

Address all correspondence to Wesley Hylton, P. O. Box 237, Mammoth Spring, Ark.

Questions will be considered and answered, comments, criticisms, and words of encouragement are invited.

NEWS ITEMS

The church in Mammoth Spring plans an addition to the front of the building. Work will begin around the first of the year. The addition will provide space for rest rooms, a "cry room", and other needed space. . . . Arrangements are almost complete on a Lectureship to be held Mar. 2nd through 7th., 1959. Further details will be announced later.

concerns the church in any way, and will be glad to print it. If you have a friend who is not a member of the Lords church and who you think will read this paper we will be glad to put their name on the mailing list so that they will receive the paper each month.

"PILE 'EM UP"

Boyd E. Morgan

Bro. Perry Vail told me this one while I was in a meeting at Wheeling, Ark.

Two hunters met.

"Had any luck finding quail?" one asked.

"Pretty good! I've got twelve so far", the second answered.

"Hm! That's four more than the limit and it so happens that I'm a game warden. You know, the limit is eight.

"Well, that's how many I've got."

"Yeah? Put them out there on the ground so I can count 'em."

"Now there ain't no need for that. You can take my word for it."

"Pile 'em up, friend. Let's count 'em.,,

Slowly and hesitantly the hunter dug around in his pockets and finally produced four.

"Come on. Put the rest out." demanded the warden.

"That's all I've got", sheepishly replied the hunter.

A search proved the last statement to be the only right one Mr. Hunter had made. The warden was heard mumbling as he walked away. It was something about, of all the liars he had met, this took the cake.

Now it seems to me that a story like that ought to have a moral somewhere and I thought about it. Seems too, that a lot of us who kid ourselves about all the work that we do for the Lord are going to be shook down in the judgment day and we'll have to pile 'em up. The fruit we have borne will then be apparent. We may be surprised ourselves at how small the pile is.

Mt. 7:21 is applicable to the saint and sinner alike.

Congratulations to all concerned on beginning the paper again. Only good can come from it.

Spiritual Security

Wesley Hylton

One of the fundamental tendencies of the human race is to seek security. In ages past, men have sought security from wild animals, the forces of nature, or anything else that threatened their existence. Today, we are more security conscious than ever. On a national scale there is the Social Security program. Many realize that the time is coming when they no longer will be able to earn a livelihood. Hence, the effort to prepare for that day. Security for those years is sought by all.

Even the possession of great riches, however, is no guarantee of security. Fortunes can be lost in a single day. And finally after all the struggle death comes to all. What then? Surely there must be something better to look forward to than material security.

Seeing that permanent security is not available here on earth many look elsewhere. Man in his search for security beyond death turns to the spiritual realm. A promise of life after death has been offered by Jesus Christ; the only begotten Son of God. Here is security in many ways. No suffering, fear, or worry. In that wonderful place God will wipe away all tears.

Is this much desired goal attainable by all? The answer is yes! The invitation is to "whosoever will." The Lord said, "Come unto me all ye that labor; and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. The term "all" includes everyone. In Rev. 22:17, we find this statement: "The Spirit and the bride say Come. Let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will**, let him take of the water of life freely."

Since this blessing is intended for all, the question naturally arises, what must we do to obtain it? Do we have to meet

certain conditions? Once again, the answer is yes. Even if the Bible did not state those conditions, common sense teaches us that there is a condition attached to every offer. This is born out in everyday life. If we want clothes, groceries, or the other necessities of life, we must meet the conditions on which they are offered.

What are the conditions that must be met, if we are to enjoy spiritual security? Heb. 11:6, "For without faith it is impossible to please God: for he that cometh to Him must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek him diligently." A close look at this scripture reveals certain things we need to consider. Keeping in mind that we can't please God without faith, there are three conditions to consider. 1. Come to God. 2. Believe that He is. 3. Seek Him diligently. When these conditions are met, He then will reward the one who comes to Him, believing. Christ also said, "Except that ye believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins." Is faith the only condition? No, in spite of what you may have heard to the contrary. James 2:24, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." As you can see, works are set forth as a condition. Certainly, we are justified by faith. Rom. 5:1. But we are not justified by "faith only."

Another condition is set forth in Lk. 13:3. There Christ said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." So in order to obtain the spiritual security we seek, it is either repent or perish. Repentance is a change of life. A turning away from things that do not please God with the determination to do His will. "God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Confession is also a condition of salvation. In Matt. 10:32,33, Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." This passage contains two positive and two negative statements. 1. Confess Christ before men. 2. Be confessed before God. 3. Deny Christ. 4. Be denied. The Ethiopian Eunuch, as recorded in Acts 8, made the good confession in these words: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of

God." Do you believe that?

Have we gone far enough in our quest for spiritual security. Can we say that we now enjoy the hope of heaven? No. There is still another step, or condition, to make. After the Eunuch had confessed Christ, he commanded the chariot to stand still. Then Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. Thus Philip carried out the Lord's command as given in the great commission. Mk. 16:16, 16, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." The essentiality of baptism is also seen in the following references. Mtt. 28:18, 20; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3, 5; Gal. 3: 26, 27; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:21. Baptism is the final steps that puts one in Christ. All spiritual blessings are to be found in Christ. Eph. 1:3. Therefore, we could not hope to find spiritual security without the spiritual blessings that are to be had only in Christ. And, the only way to obtain those blessings is to be baptized into the Saviour.

When the above mentioned conditions are met, we then become a child of God, and can look forward to heavens promise. Someone may be ready to say, "Well, we have met all the conditions. Now we can rest assured; there is nothing more to do. No, for actually we have only started. It is true that we are a Christian; a child of God. However, as a new born babe in Christ, we are told to "desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." Growth is conditioned on desiring the word. So there is another condition. Paul told Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God. A workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Here is what Paul said in condensed form. 1. Study. 2. Rightly divide the Word. Results: an unashamed workman.

To help us make our calling and election sure, the apostle Peter gives this advice: "And beside all this, giving diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that liketh these

things is blind and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged of his old sins. Wherefore the rather brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. "I Pet. 1:5, 10. Here Peter adds seven more conditions to that of faith. He even goes so far as to say," He that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off." He emphasizes the need to make our calling and election sure. This can be done by adding the seven things he mentions to faith. Hence, seven more conditions. Notice that he also said, "If ye do these things, ye shall never fall." If a person doesn't add these the only sensible conclusion that can be reached is that he will fall.

To be spiritually secure, we must worship God in spirit and in truth. Jn. 4:24. "God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." To worship God in this manner it must be done according to His direction.

Since the apostles were guided into all truth by the Holy Spirit, and were given the power to bind certain things, we have their commands and examples to follow in worship. Those commands include: Partaking of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. Acts 20:7. 2. The giving of our means. 1 Cor. 16:2, 3. 3. Praising the Lord in song. Eph. 5:19. 4. Prayer. 1 Cor. 14:15; 1 Thess. 5:17. 5. Teaching the Word. Matt. 23: 19; 11 Tim. 2:15. Here are five more conditions to help us be spiritually secure.

In 1 Jn. 2:15, 16, we find three other things the Christian must do to maintain spiritual security. 1. Abstain from the lust of the flesh. 2. Abstain from the lusts of the eye. 3. Overcome the pride of life. These are things of the world, and the child of God must avoid them. The Lord in speaking of His people said, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

It isn't difficult to see from all these Scriptures that many conditions stand between the sinner and his being saved. However, the Lord still says to every sinner, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden . . ."

Friend, are you spiritually secure? Have you been born again, "Not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, the word of God that liveth and abideth forever?" Before we can enjoy spiritual

security we must observe the words of Christ when he said, " Except a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." If you have ever humbled yourself to do the Lord's will, now is the time to do so. Today is the day of salvation; and, spiritual security can be yours.

THERE MUST BE A REASON

The Church of Christ is growing nine times as fast as the fastest growing of the religious organizations listed below. Figures indicate growth from 1948-1958 of membership in the United States, and are based on information from the World Almanac.

Disciples of Christ	2%
Primitive Paptist	9%
Methodist	12%
Presbyterian	25%
Roman Catholic	37%
Southern Baptist	43%
Seventh Day Adventist	53%
Churches of Christ	481%

Perhaps one reason for this growth is faithfulness in the practice of the Bible admonition, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God. . . But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 4:11; 3:15).

We invite you to come and investigate for yourself the plea for the restoration of New Testament Christianity that is identical in faith and practice with that known by the Apostles and Christians of the first century.

Did you know that religion is not something you get, but something you do?

Christianity to a lot of people is like a dose of medicine. They put off taking it too long.

The most uncomfortable person in all the world is the one who has just enough religion to make him uneasy, not enough to be enjoyed, and too much to be ignored.

Patting yourself on the back will not push you forward.

Consider Christ Jesus

Heb. 3:1

Orbie Robbins

In our text Heb. 3:1 the writer referred to the Hebrews as holy brethren and partakers of the heavenly calling, and calls upon them to consider Christ Jesus.

This text is applicable unto us to-day as Christians and as holy brethren and partakers of the heavenly calling.

Why consider Christ Jesus?

1. Because of what he has done in the past.

(1) He gave up his home and his existence with his father, and took upon himself the form of man that he might perfect a plan of redemption for humanity. Jno. 1:1-14 Phil. 2:8

(2) He became poor insofar as this world's goods is concerned.

Upon one occasion he said the foxes have holes and the birds have nests but the son of man hath no place to lay his head.

(3) He Gave his life.

The son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and give his life a ransom for many. Mt. 20:28

(4) His trial.

He underwent the most unfair and unjust trial ever imposed upon any man.

The accusations brought against him were untrue. Pilate said with the evidence submitted I find no fault in him. But he did not have enough moral courage to sustain his decision and give Christ the judgment that was due him. He delivered unto his accusers the Christ and released Barrabas a murderer. So the Prophet Isaiah said in his humiliation his judgment was taken away and who shall declare his generation for his life is taken from the earth.

See **CONSIDER CHRIST** on last page

We cannot expect to win the race unless we run. We cannot enter heaven unless we prepare. Are you ready? If not, WHY?

Quitters in the church are like motors; they start "sputtering" before they miss, and start "missing" before they quit.

Every busy man should have a wife. so he won't have to waste so much time in making up his mind about things.

Are You Converted?

Don Smith

In the realm of religion it is not unusual to hear people talk about "joining the church" or about when they "joined the church." Many of us however, do not realize that there are those claiming to be members of the Lord's church who have "joined the church" in the strict denominational sense. They do not act like Christians; they do not speak like Christians; they do not think like Christians. They are christians in name only because they have never really been converted to Christ.

This incident will show what I mean. I knew a girl a few years ago, who was about to marry a young man who was not a Christian. One day he made this statement: "If it will make things easier for you, I will be baptized." Wisely, she refused to let him become a church member just for her. A few months later, he was baptized into Christ of his own accord, because of his own convictions, and not in order to please her. This is as it should be. A "conversion" in order to please husband, wife, brother or sister is not a true conversion.

True conversion consists of obedience **from the heart**. Paul wrote to the Romans, "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have **obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." Romans 6:17, 18.

James 2:21 tells us that Abraham was justified by works. "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" Thus we see faith and works going hand in hand, each complimenting the other. Faith is weak and imperfect without works. At the same time works that are done from some motive other than a firm faith in God and love for his commandments is vain, empty and hypocritical and does not constitute true conversion.

A lot of people spend six days a week sowing wild oats, then go to church on Sunday and pray for a crop failure.

NEWS ITEMS

The church at Sturkie is building some badly needed classrooms.

Bro. Lowell Blasingame of Grenada, Miss. held a late fall meeting at Camp. Good crowds were in attendance.

Bro. Conrad Hays of the Harding College faculty now preaches at Ash Flat on the first and third Sundays of each month.

One baptized during November at Ash Flat.

CONSIDER CHRIST from Page 3

Isa. 5:3

(5) We need to consider Christ because he shed his blood for the remission of our sins. Heb. 9:22, Mt. 26:28, Eph. 1:7, Zech. 13:1

(6) He made possible the Gospel of our Salvation. 1 Cor. 15:1-4

2nd Because of what he is doing now. **Present**

(1) He invites all to come unto him. Mt. 11:28-30

So if any are turned away it will not be because they could not come but because they **will not come**. Jno. 5:40

(2) He intercedes for us.

My little children these things I write unto you that you sin not but if any man sin he has an advocate with the father Jesus Christ the righteous. 1 Jno. 2:1.

He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:25

(3) He is our High Priest.

Consider the apostle and high priest of our profession Christ Jesus. Heb. Heb. 3:1

Wherefore it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the Sins of the people. Heb. 2:17-18

Again we have not an high priest which cannot be touched by our infirmities but was tempted in all points as we are yet without sin. Heb. 4:15-16

(4) He adds to the Church.

The Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved. Act. 2:47

Those that were being saved gladly received the word. Act. 2:41

Those that gladly received the word

believed, repented and were baptized for remission of sins. Act 2:37-38

(5) He calls us brethren.

Both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren. Heb. 2:11

So we can see that there is no class distinction in the body of Christ. Which necessarily would eliminate such titles as Rev. Right Rev. and Father.

3rd Because of what he will do in the **future**.

(1) He will come again.

Jesus said if I go away I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also. Jno. 14:1-33

So Christ having once been offered to bear the sins of many shall appear a second time without sin unto salvation. Heb. 9:28

The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the Arch Angel and the trump of God shall sound. 1 Thess. 4:16-17

(2) He will raise the sleeping dead.

Behold I show you a mystery we shall not all sleep, but shall all be changed in a moment in the twinkling of an eye. 1 Cor. 15:51-52

Both the just and unjust shall be raised. Jno. 5:28-29

(3) He will Judge All.

Christ came to be the Saviour of Man he is the Saviour now, but he will come again as a righteous judge to judge all. Act. 17:30-31, 2 Tim. 4:1-1, 2 Tim. 4:7-8

(4) He will **reward** the righteous and **sentence** the wicked.

He will say to those on the right the righteous "Come ye blessed of my father inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Mt. 25:34

But he will say to those on the left, the wicked, "depart from me ye cursed" into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Mt. 25:41.

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. Mt. 25:46

If one is not a christian they need to consider Christ Jesus and the plan he has given to save them from sin.

Then in humble obedience submit to its conditions, by Believing, Repenting, Confessing and being Baptized for remissions of Sins.

Then live faithful unto death that they may be saved eternally. Rev. 2:10