

Fulton County Gospel News

*Fred Basey
Gainesville, Mo.*

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

VOLUME 8 - NO. 4

MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

AUGUST - 1966

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.

Not everything that is cut to half price is worth buying.

The Eldership

In this lesson we want to begin a study of the qualifications of elders as they are given in God's book. In our last study we noticed, that the Bible teaches that every congregation is to seek to have qualified men to serve as elders. We noticed that a congregation can not please the Lord, if there are not elders appointed when men are qualified.

There is a great deal of misunderstanding about the qualifications a man must have to serve as an elder. This misunderstanding is not due to what the bible teaches, but what we want to make it teach about the qualifications. Some of these are relative, and some absolute. We shall discuss these as we proceed with our study.

In 1 Timothy 3:1 Pauls states, "This is a faithful saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. Let me say here, that Paul meant what he said in this verse. The office of an elder is a good WORK. IT is not a game men are playing. Unless a man wants to work, he should never accept the eldership. However, Paul taught that a man should desire to be an elder. He should not be pressured into accepting this office. He should not accept it just because he feels someone must serve as an elder. He must really want to serve as an elder of the Lord's church.

This desire to serve should not be to serve any selfish end. It should not be the result of lust for power, or to simply be able to have ones say in church matters. This desire must be a desire to serve God and the members of the congregation over which one is serving as an elder. Peter tells us in 1 Pet. 5:2-3, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking

Contributions

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

English Bluff	5.00
Agnos	\$ 5.00
Wheeling	5.00
Salem	5.00
Elizabeth	5.00
Crossroads	5.00
Hatfield	5.00
R. R. Hicks	2.00
Dona Baker	2.00
Mrs. Josie Sparks	2.00
Ted Brown	1.00
Tommie Billingsley	1.00
O. L. Grisham	1.00

News Notes - -

Brother John Simpson of Morriston, Ark. will begin a meeting at the Ward Street church of Christ in Hardy August 22 through 27.

The meeting at Delhalf closed with eight being baptized. Brother Arthur C. Blackwell did the preaching. Attendance was excellent.

the oversight thereof, not by constraint (Force), but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

Brethern there is a great need today for men who desire to serve as the elders of the Lord's church. We need to begin to look ahead and train young men to fill this position in the Lord's church. We need to instill in young men a strong desire to be elders, as well as preachers and deacons in the church. May the day come when every congregation across the land will have faithful, dedicated elders to guide her in serving the God of heaven.

James Knight
Pineville, La.

Fulton County Gospel News

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
FREE SUBSCRIPTION

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID
MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

SUPPORTED BY:
CHURCHES OF CHRIST
IN THIS AREA

EDITORS:
CLOVIS RAGSDALE
RICHARD ENGLAND

THE POWER OF SOAP — AND THE GOSPEL

A soap manufacturer who was an agnostic once chided a preacher about his work. "You say the gospel you preach has the power to cleanse the world of sin?"

"Yes", replied the preacher.

"Then why is there so much sin in the world? I have little faith in your gospel's cleansing power!"

The preacher responded, "Does your soap have the power to cleanse the dirt from all the people of the world?"

"Yes" exclaimed the soap-maker.

"But I see dirty people everywhere! I have little faith in your product's cleansing power!"

"But there would be no dirty people if they only used my soap."

"Exactly," the preacher said, "and so it is with the gospel. It cleanses only when properly used!"

—Via Healdton, Okla.

A LITTLE BOY was changing his money from one hand to the other waiting for the contribution basket to pass. Suddenly he noticed that the nicely dressed woman sitting next to him was making no preparation to give anything. He wanted to help so he said, "Here, lady, you take my dime and I will crawl under the seat."

She Did What She Could

Worley Ferguson

In the gospels we are told how that Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with genuine spikenard ointment valued at about \$50.00 or the equivalent of eleven months of work. The apostles, especially Judas Iscariot, criticised both the Lord and the woman for her act. Jesus complimented Mary for her consideration saying, "She has done what she could, she has anointed my body beforehand for the burial" (Mark 14:8).

Our admiration for Mary's devotion to the Lord becomes greater when we realize how much Christ meant to her. She was willing to give the price of eleven months of work to show her love and affection for the Lord. Jesus said of her efforts, "She has done what she could." Can you think of a greater compliment to be paid to a disciple of Christ? What would Jesus say if he were to pass judgment upon us. Have we done all that we can do for the Lord?

Have I studied the word of God as much as I could? Do I schedule my time and daily activities so that I can give a definite period of study to the words of eternal life? Have I really done what I could in studying God's sacred revelation to me?

Have I done all I can to make the work of my home congregation what it should be? Have I really found time to talk to people about Christ and their need of Christ in their lives and hearts? Have I been in attendance for all the services of the congregation? Can the elders, teachers and preachers always say of me, "He has done what he could to promote the cause of Christ"? In my reflective moments when I consider the mission of the Lord's people and how short we fall of accomplishing this mission I would be afraid for the Lord to give his verdict. There is such little hope that I would hear him say, "He has done what he could."

Let us re-examine our hearts

and commitments and with God's help resolve to do what we can to bring glory to him. Our potential has not been realized. Our possible accomplishments are far beyond our expectation if we each would do what he can. Starting now let us do what we can in Bible study, personal visitation, promoting the work of the church in all of her worthy undertakings. Let us do what we can to encourage and help our teachers, elders, deacons, and preachers in this great work of soul-saving and heaven-gaining. Some day soon the Lord will either say, "Depart from me" or "He has done what he could." We hold the answer to his final statement.

Think of This - -

Said one, "I planned an ultra-modern home."

But a hungarian woman whispered, "I have no home at all."

Said another, "I dreamed of a country place for luxurious weekends."

But a refugee child kept saying, "I have no country."

I decided on a new cupboard right now:

But a child of Korea cried out, "I have no cup."

I started to purchase a new kind of washing machine;

But a Polish woman said softly, "I have nothing to wash."

I wanted a quick-freezing unit for storing quantities of food; But across the water came the cry, "I have no food."

I ordered a new car for the pleasure of my loved ones.

But a war orphan murmured, "I have no loved ones."

Said one, "We want foam cushions our pews to make soft."

But an African Christian whispered, "I have no pew to sit on."

—Selected

A NEW VERSION - -

Now I sit me down to sleep;

The sermon's long and the subject deep.

If he should quit before I wake,

Somebody give me a little shake.

A Priceless Habit

Jesus often withdrew into the wilderness, into the mountains, or to a desert place for long conversations with God in prayer. Sometimes he went with his disciples; often he preferred aloneness.

If Jesus, Son of God, perfect and sinless, needed regular communion with God, how much more do we, who are so dependent on his mercy, his forgiveness, his guidance, and his providential care need prayer!

No wonder the Savior admonished, "Watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation!" No wonder his disciples were such men of prayer!

Seven men were chosen to take care of the material needs of the Grecian widows in the Jerusalem church, so that the apostles could devote themselves entirely to "prayer and the ministry of the word." In Philippi Paul and Silas were on their way to pray when the demoniac girl began following them; Lydia was having a prayer service when Paul met her, and upon his imprisonment in that city, he continued in prayer and singing. It was not surprising that Paul would admonish this same church to "let your requests be made known to God in everthing by prayer and supplication." This shows regularity in prayer! Prayer was habitual in the early church.

Prayer — our reservoir of power, through which all things in accord with his will can be accomplished, should be a regular part of every day." "Lord, teach us to pray!"

The little sharp vexations, and the
briars that catch and fret,

Why not take all to the Helper
who has never failed us yet.

Tell Him about the heartache and
tell Him the longings too;

Tell Him the baffled purposes
when we scarce know what to
do.

Then leaving all our weakness with
the One divinely strong,

Forget that we bore the burden,
and carry away the song.

—20th Century Christian

He Doesn't Like Me!

And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so. 1 Kgs. 22:8. King Ahab hated Micaiah because the prophet prophesied evil of him and not good. In this matter, who was right? Micaiah spoke the will of God!

How true this principle is today! When the preacher speaks the truth of God, those who are guilty and living in sin do not like the preacher. As Ahab, they hate him. This hatred manifests itself in many ways. Some take it as a personal dig, some spread their venom by gossiping, while others run to another class of prophets (another congregation) that will agree with them. Very few will stay put, correct their lives as told.

This prophesy would not have come from God had Ahab's heart been right. But his disposition of heart caused him to lose his life in battle. Just so, those who will not correct their hearts will lose their souls at God's judgment. Becoming angry with the preacher will not vindicate. God will forgive when men obey His Word!

If this were not so serious, a point of humor could be noted. Ahab hated Micaiah because ———
HE DOTHT NOT PROPHESEY GOOD
CONCERNING ME, BUT EVIL!

Bill Graddy

AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR— PLEASE REMEMBER!

1. The Devil doesn't take a vacation.
2. Standards of Morality do not change.
3. The Lord's Day still comes every week.
4. Financial obligations continue.
5. The Lord's eyes are in every place.
6. The seed sown in the spring and summer will be reaped in the fall.

ARE YOU PREACHING?

There isn't a word that a preacher can say,

No matter how lovely or true;
Nor is there a prayer his eager lips can say,

That can preach such a sermon as you.

You vowed to serve Christ and men know that you did,

They are watching the things that you do;

There is not one action of yours that is hid,

Men are watching and studying you.

You say you are no preacher?

Yes, but you preach

A wonderful sermon each day.
The acts of your life are the things that you teach,

It is not the things that you say.
So, Christian, remember you bear his dear name,

Your lives are for others to view.

You are living examples, men praise you or blame,

And measure all Christians by you.

EASILY CONVINCED

The minister plunked wearily into an easy chair. He told his wife he had just attempted to persuade his congregation that it was the duty of the rich to help the poor.

"Did you convince them?" she asked.

"I was half-successful," said the minister. "I convinced the poor."

Etta Caldwell Harris, Ark.

SEVEN STEPS TO STAGNATION

1. It won't work —
2. It cost too much —
3. We're not ready for that just yet —
4. That's not our responsibility —
5. We're doing alright without it—
6. We've never done it that way before —
7. We've tried that before and it didn't work —

"When you lie dying, you will probably get very little comfort by counting all the hypocrites that you know in the church."

Perilous Times

Clovis Ragsdale

Paul describes a time when men will follow after everything that is sinful and unholy. This is recorded in the last letter to Timothy, chapter three. With so much violence and sin of every kind being so prominent in this twentieth century it causes every serious minded person to wonder if indeed those times have not already arrived. The newspapers are full of accounts of every crime conceivable. People are murdering, raping, stealing, grafting, hating, and etc. at a record breaking pace with each ensuing year. This sort of thing is going on in a supposedly christian nation. If this continues to increase at the present rate we anticipate a condition much like the heathern world of the time of Christ and the early days of the New Testament church. The only thing that will stem this tide of sin will be the efforts of christians to teach and uphold the way of life that Christ proclaimed. It is possible that we will be overwhelmed for a time much like a army whose position is over run in battle. It is most likely that persecution will set in like those of our generation have never known. Already people are beginning to make fun of those who insist on high standards of decency and respect for the truth of the scriptures.

Because we believe the church, nation, and the world is reaching a crises rivalling that of any in the history of man, we invite your serious consideration of this and following articles pertaining to this most serious situation.

The Bible, the most accurate history of man available shows man to be constantly changing in his attitudes toward his Maker. Periods when he walked close to God are followed by times when he departed to the depths of sin. The people of the time of the patriarchal age were like this. The children of Israel were never able to remain true to the instructions of Jehovah. The church drifted in-

to apostacy in a few centuries after being established. Periods of righteousness are invariable followed by sinful times.

The period of time known as the reformation and the restoration which has been in effect for about five hundred years may now give way to a time of apostacy and sin.

2. Tim. 3, begins with the statement, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. This does not necessarily indicate that Christ is going to come back to earth in a few years. The last days begin with the revelation of the Gospel, literally on the day of Pentecost when for the first time the Gospel was preached in fulness. This time or age is to continue till the end of time or the judgment day. When a person states they believe we are living in the last days, they are correct. If they mean to say that Christ is coming back to earth in a few years, then they are expressing a opinion for the Bible says only God knows when the end will be. Matt. 24:36.

Verse two, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy." Selfishness has plagued all generations but exists today in a greater degree than in times past. Selfishness causes men to lie and cheat for selfish gain. This is especially true in the business world and in affairs of government. Covetous is close kind to selfishness. The intense desire of something that belongs to someone else creeps into the hearts of many people. It is a sin in the eyes of God.

In the next issue we will consider more of the attitudes that the apostle catalogues as becoming of the perilous times.

MY CREED

Some men thank God for a day that is done;

I thank Him for the one begun,
For the chance to live as I feel I should

And, with His good grace, as I know I could.

I am glad of a chance to do and

O. L. Grisham, 1138 Manchester Drive, South Bend, Indiana. I just completed a meeting with the Clarks Ridge-Church of Christ, Clarks Ridge, Arkansas; in which nine souls were baptized into Christ and thirteen confessions of wrongs. The attendance was wonderful every evening. I have some time open for meetings through 1969, if any congregation would be interested.

We are in a fine mission work here in South Bend and Mishawaka, Indiana, and we would appreciate receiving names of relatives and friends that you might know of in this area. Please pray for us in this good work. We have a good radio program going and August and September will find us engaged in a concentrated personal workers program. Many young people plan to be assisting in this work.

Bro. Joe L. Camp, of Clarks Ridge, Arkansas; is interested in locating with some working congregation in the four state area. Bro. Camp has a good wife and three fine children, one of which is now attending Arkansas State College. I am happy to recommend Bro. Camp and his wonderful family to any congregation that would like to have a good sound gospel preacher and a good personal worker. Bro. Camp and his family dress well, and they have a very fine personality. You can reach Bro. Camp through the above address, or contact him by phone through Mountain Home, Arkansas. Any congregation needing a full time preacher, would do well get in touch with Bro. Camp. He has been preaching for several years, and has a good understanding of the Bible.

O. L. Grisham
1138 Manchester Drive
South Bend, Ind.

say,
A kindly thing, in a kindly way;
And of bringing, if, but for a little while,
To the face of another, a happy smile.
If you meet a man who isn't wearing a smile,
Give him yours.