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# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

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## 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.

## Contributions

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## The Eldership No. 5

We want to continue our study of the eldership. I want again to emphasize the great responsibility that rest upon the man who serves as an elder in the Lord's church. It is no easy task and should not be taken lightly.

In I Tim. 3:2 Paul makes this statement, "A Bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife, Vigilant, sober of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach". We want to discuss some of the things mentioned in this verse.

Just what did Paul mean when he said, "that an elder must be VIGILANT? Just what does this word mean? It means to be alertly watchful as one keeping a vigil. This is certainly in harmony with other passages of scripture. Paul warned the elders of the church at Ephesus to take heed unto themselves and to the flock over the which the Holy Ghost had made them overseers, to feed the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. The reason for this alertness is to keep false teachers from coming in and leading the flock astray. They are to be alert because they must give an account of the soul entrusted to their care. Heb. 13:17.

I firmly believe that many of

the problems we have in the church today are brought on because elders have not been alert to false teaching being done by others. Many members become unfaithful due to elders not being alert to their needs. They begin to miss the services, and to engage in sinful activities, and the elders do nothing or say nothing until this had become a habitual way of life with them. Elders then try to get them to straighten out their lives only to find that in many cases it is too late. Elders need to be more alert to the needs of the church over which they serve. Satan is always looking for ways to draw away disciples after him. He even uses other members of the Lord's church on occasion to accomplish his purpose. They often appear as wolves in sheeps clothing.

Elders also must be SOBER, that is of sound judgment. It also means that they must not be excitable or passionate, but self restrained. He must be able to make decisions after weighing all the facts or evidence in the case. He must not be swayed by his own desire or wants, unless these be best for the congregation. There is no place where sound judgment and sober mindedness is needed any more than in the Lord's church, and by elders.

Far too many times decisions are made because that is the way elders want it, not because it is best for the church. Paul in Titus says, "the elders are not to be selfwilled, or always want their way regardless. This has been the custom of some elders in the church in the past.

I pray that the day will come when every congregation in the land has elders which possess the above qualifications. May the elders we already have in the church grow in this respect.

James Knight  
Pineville, La.

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SUPPORTED BY:  
CHURCHES OF CHRIST  
IN THIS AREA

EDITORS:  
CLOVIS RAGSDALE  
RICHARD ENGLAND

## You Teach a Lesson

Many people teach lessons with out realizing that they do. We do very few things without teaching by the example we set. An old saying goes like this: "Actions speak louder than words." We have all heard some loud professions concerning Christianity, but they were drowned out by the actions of the one making the profession. When you deliberately absent yourself from any service of the church, you teach lessons by your absence. This is true whether it be Sunday morning Bible study, Wednesday night services, Sunday night services, or any other time set aside by the church for such services. Notice some of these lessons:

1. You teach that this particular Bible lesson is unimportant.
2. You teach that what you do is more important than studying the Word of God.
3. You teach that a person can be a faithful Christian and still not be interested in the study of the Bible.
4. You teach that you already know as much as you want to know about the Bible (shame on you!)
5. You teach that, in your op-

inion, you have nothing to offer to others in Bible study.

6. You teach that you are completely indifferent as to the success or failure of that particular study period. In fact, people will come nearer getting the idea that you want it to fail.

These lessons and others are taught to others both in the church and out of the church, when you have the opportunity to attend Bible study and choose not to do so. My brother, what kind of a lesson are you teaching?

—John D. Cox

## Two Cripples

Two cripples entered the church Cripples — but each in a different way;

One had a body, strong and whole  
But it sheltered a warped and  
twisted soul.

The other walked with a halting  
gait

But his soul was tall and fair and  
straight!

They shared a pew. They shared  
a book.

But on each face was a different  
look.

One was light with hope and joy  
And faith that nothing could de-  
stroy,

The other joined not in prayer and  
hymn,

No smile relaxed his features  
grim.

His neighbors had wronged him,  
his heart was sore,

He thought of himself and nothing  
more;

The words that were read from  
the Holy Book

Struck deafened ears and a for-  
lorn look.

To one came comfort — his soul  
was fed.

The other gained nothing from  
what was said;

Two cripples left the church that  
day

Crippled — but in a differnt way.

A twisted foot did one body mar,  
But the twisted soul was sadder  
far!.

—Author Unknown

## Christian Training

We often wonder if the time taken in Bible classes will pay off. Parents wonder if home Bible study is really necessary. Children and young people wonder why they should attend Bible classes. I believe that most of these questions can be answered in the following excerpts from an unknown source.

"Max Jukes lived in the state of New York. He did not believe in Christian training. He married a girl of like character. From this union they have 1,206 descendants. Three hundred of them died prematurely. One hundred were sent to the penitentiary for an average of 13 years each. One hundred and ninety were public prostitutes. There were 100 drunkards, and the family cost the state \$1,200,000. They made no contribution to society."

But.....

"Jonathan Edwards lived in the same state. He believed in Christian training. He married a girl of like character. From this union they have 729 descendants. Out of this family have come 300 preachers, 65 college professors, 13 university presidents, 60 authors of good books, three United States congressmen and outside of Aaron Burr, a grandson of Edwards, who married a questionable character, the family has not cost the state a single dollar. The difference in the two families: "Christian training in youth and heart conversions."

Yes, Christian training is important. Christian education in a family does make a difference. Youth can be won to Christ at an early age, if the home and church will work together in this vital teaching ministry.

Parents, support the Bible School! The best friend you have in the world is your child's Bible school teacher.

"You have not lived a perfect day, even though you have earned your money unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you."

## "We Have Forsaken All"

Lewis G. Hale

This was no idle boast on the part of Peter. This was stark reality. When we read the accounts of the lives of these men who followed Jesus, how thrilling it is to see how much they were willing to suffer for the Name.

Paul tells us of his former life, then says, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Phil. 3:7).

How empty and hollow this would sound to our friends and neighbors if most of us made such a claim! Would you tell them you have suffered the loss of all things for Christ? Would you dare tell, the Lord himself, We have forsaken all, and followed thee?

Take an honest look at your life and ask yourself this question, What have I lost to gain Christ? Have we really made any sacrifices? What could you give up for God if you were of a mind to do it?

Some of our people need to forsake a TV set for a few hours and go to the house of the Lord on Sunday night and Wednesday night. Others need to forsake the lake on the Lord's day. Some need to forsake the game table long enough to call on some lost souls. Some need to forsake the telephone and go visit a shut-in. Some of the young people need to forsake the parked car, yea, even the dance floor. You can add to this list. How much better if we would subtract from the list by crossing out of our lives all that stands between us and our best service for the Lord.

Lewis G. Hale.

"If there are times when we need the courage to stand up and speak, there are also times when

we need the wisdom to sit down and listen."

## Hunger and Thirst

The two great, driving needs of the body are food and water. With out these the body quickly wastes away and death will come. Murder, theft and wars have resulted from the need of these two things.

The pioneers that settled our own great West looked first for locations where there was abundant game for food and sufficient water to sustain themselves and their livestock. In searching for these places many wandered into the desert to die and parched lips, swollen tongues and dehydrated bodies; others caught in winter storms, unable to hunt were reduced to eating their own shoes and in at least one instant to cannibalism. Such is the great drive for human survival. These things are a MUST, without them death walks at your side.

From the material side let us turn to the spiritual. Even as this physical body demands food and water, so also does the soul require it's food and drink. Christ, in His sermon on the mountain stressed these needs when he said "Blessed are they which do HUNGER and THIRST after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6) From this statement we must conclude that the righteousness of God comes not just by chance, even as food and water it is found by needful seeking.

In this land we have the Pure Food and Drug Act, and countless laws designed to protect us in the matter of food and drink, yet many times food and drink wrapped in enticing packages are bought over the counter and death is taken into the home. Neat and attractive packaging will not guarantee the pureness of the content. If the packers of such food will follow closely the dictates of the law safety is assured.

The laws guarding the food and drink for the soul are found only in God's Word. As we may watch for the compliance with the Food

and Drug Act in obtaining food for the body we should also check for God's label of approval on food and drink for the soul.

Robert Henley  
Mt. Home, Ark.

### SO YOU ARE SATISFIED!

Well, what of it? The rich man was satisfied, but God called him a fool and took away his soul. (Luke 12:20).

The whole church in Laodicea was satisfied, but Jesus said they did not know they were actually wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. That is how wrong a "satisfied" person can be. (Revelation 3:17, 18).

The Pharisee who went into the temple to pray was satisfied with himself, and even glad he was not as the publican. Jesus said the sin conscious publican was justified rather than the self-righteous Pharisee (Luke 18:8-14).

The wise man warned: "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12).

Don't mistake a complacent satisfaction as evidence or assurance that God is pleased with your life.

## A Progress Report -

Great things are in the making at Salem, Arkansas. The brethren there are moving along on the plans for the big area wide meeting next September. As we have already reported, brother Jimmy Allen of Searcy, Arkansas is to do the preaching. This promises to be one of the biggest efforts ever put forth in this area for the cause of Christ. Much work will be done between now and then by many congregations of the Lord's people in letting others know of the meeting. Your prayers on behalf of this work are solicited. Especially pray for the health and welfare of the Elders and preacher in Salem so that they might give full effort of mind and body toward this great event. The dates of the meeting are September 17-24, 1967.

## A 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 preacher the church wanted. In order to do this he composed a letter as though it had been received from a preacher and read it to the committee selecting a new preacher. Gentlemen:

Understanding that you need a preacher, I would 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 a 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 different towns where I have preached, and I am sure that they will not recommend me. 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 committee, 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, trouble-making, contentious, exjailbird; and were insulted that his application had ever been presented! But one of them did ask the the preacher's name, and the elder replied, "The Apostle Paul."

## Weathering the Storm

Life is not all sunshine. It is not always a bright, summer day. On the voyage to the peaceful shore, we encounter the storm. The "contrary winds" seem to sweep us from the course and to thwart our purpose. Family difficulties, business reverses, wars and rumors of wars, temptations, unjust criticism, persecutions, sickness, death, all appear at times to go against us. The Master may be in the boat with us, yet the storm is inevitable.

Sunshine and shadows, winter and summer, storm and calm, all must play their part in the drama of life. Every season has its mission, every trial its purpose. Pray not for the Master to withhold the storm, but for strength to endure it.

The storm may come with startling suddenness — a great bereavement, a bitter disappointment, a crushing defeat. Or the storm may come slowly. The dark cloud "no longer than a man's hand" appears in the distant horizon; but the problem which seems so small and insignificant spreads until it covers our sky and shuts out the light.

Because of the storm many times we do not always keep the simple faith of childhood. Many times we often lose our faith. But why should we fear the storm when the Lord of the waves is in the boat with us? Faith is the light in the storm. Let us lift up our heads, trusting him who has power to still the tempest and make for our bark a peaceful path.

The result of the storm reveals character. The strength of the

house is unknown until it is tested by the elements. The storm does not necessarily make weak places but points them out. After the weak places in the structure of life are revealed, we can set our hand to the task of repairing them. The storm will strengthen our character, the worthy one stands, only the rotten tree falls. The storm binds brother to brother. Mutual sorrow and disappointment tends to unite us. The storm beautifies life, when endured with an uplifted head, adds to character a beauty, a sweetness, gentleness like that of the Son of God.

—excerpts from 20th  
Century Christian

IF A MAN DESIRE THE OFFICE OF A BISHOP — HE MUST 1. Tim. 3:1-7:

1. - be blameless
  2. - be the husband of one wife
  3. - be vigilant
  4. - be sober
  5. - be of good behavior
  6. - be given to hospitality
  7. - be apt to teach
  8. - NOT be given to wine
  9. - NOT a striker
  10. - NOT greedy of filthy lucre
  11. - be patient
  12. - NOT be a brawler
  13. NOT be covetous
  14. - rule well his own house
  15. - have his children in subjection
  16. -NOT be a novice (new convert)
  17. - have a good report of them without (outside the church)
- Titus 1:5-9;
18. - have Christian children
  19. - not be self-willed
  20. - not soon angry
  21. - be a lover of good men
  22. - be just
  23. - be holy
  24. - be temperate
  25. - hold fast the faithful word
  26. - be able to exhort and convince the gainsayers
  27. - be able to stop the mouths of vain talkers and deceivers

"Nobody knows the exact age of the human race, but most of us agree that it is old enough to know better."