

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

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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

Mrs. Felix Davis of Memphis, Tennessee calls our attention to a matter which should have been done for some time, and that is to have a regular article in the paper concerning what to do to become a Christian. We appreciate her suggestion and begin with this paper to carry the following as a regular item:

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

News Notes - -

Brother Clude Hall of Lipan, Texas spoke to the Mammoth Spring church of Christ Wednesday, Dec. 1. Brother Hall preaches for the church at Lipan. He is a former resident of Fulton County.

Brother Grady Reeves has moved to East Prairie, Mo. to work with the church in that town. During the past year and a half he preached for the church at Welcome Hill.

Brother Paul Watson recently moved to work with the church in Thayer, Missouri. Paul was born and reared near Parma, Missouri. After graduating from High School he attended Freed-Hardeman College and Abilene Christian College. Paul is 33 years old. Mrs. Watson (Ann) was born near Camp Arkansas and reared close to Parma, Missouri. Paul and Ann have three children: Donna, age 8; Steven, age 3; and Delana, age 2. The Watson family will be a great help to the work of the Lord in Thayer and we are all very happy to have them in this area.

Plans are being made for a lecture program in Mammoth Spring March 21 through 26. As in lecture programs of the past, we will have a panel on the last evening to answer questions which are to be placed in a "question box" during that week. Make your plans to be with us then.

name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the fit 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

Acknowledge Contributions

Eva Downey, Canton, Mo. \$1.00
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October 6, 1965
Mountain Grove, Mo.

The Church here finished a meeting with George Triplett doing the preaching, Sept. 29. This was by far the best attended meeting the Church here ever experienced. Twelve responded to the gospel during this meeting with nine being baptized and three being restored.

Brother Triplett is a wonderful speaker with a good knowledge of the scriptures and he is exceptionally dedicated to his work with a tremendous amount of zeal.

Our hearts were made to rejoice again when four came forward the Sunday following the meeting. Three to identify with the Church in this place and one for prayer.

The Church here is sponsoring a fellowship meeting Oct. 14. Brother Triplett will be with us to speak on the subject of Mission work.

Lynn Hixon

"You can't control the length of your life, but you can control the width and depth of it."

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SUPPORTED BY:

CHURCHES OF CHRIST
IN THIS AREA

EDITORS:

CLOVIS RAGSDALE
RICHARD ENGLAND

Editorial - -

Richard England
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

Without question we know that mission work must be done in order to save lost souls. Many cities and towns of the world do not have any faithful Christians meeting in them. As brethren go into these places and begin the work, much of the time it becomes necessary to ask assistance of other Christians. To ask, give, and receive such assistance is absolutely within the bounds of New Testament teaching. Yet, it is my personal opinion that many of the appeals for financial aid received by churches today are from brethren who COULD find a way to HELP THEMSELVES. Among the letters received by the church in Mammoth Spring have been requests from brethren in actually better financial position than are we. I believe I could paint a sorrowful picture of our "needs" in such a fashion that people away from here would be happy to send money to help us pay for our building. It could also be said: "We do not wish to bind ourselves financially to a point where we can do nothing other than pay for a meeting place. We believe that the saving

of souls is our primary task."

Brethren, if the building of a building is not a part of the work of saving souls, WHY BUILD IT? Most of the time, there are enough brethren meeting in these places to take the financial burden of a building or they wouldn't be wanting a building anyway. (Of course, I realize that this is not always the case.) Many of the Lord's people in Mammoth Spring are living on a pension, others have very small incomes. We have a few who have a substantial income, but none that might be considered "rich in this world" by the standards of the nation in which we live. When we felt the need to build a building, the Elders planned one within the reach of the church, brethren signed personal notes as security for that which was needed in addition to our property on which we built. Many of the places writing throughout the country asking for help could do likewise, I'm sure.

Another note about this is that they write to brethren of whom they know nothing regarding their ability to help, their faithfulness to the Lord, and even of their existence. If they think a church might be meeting in some town, they simply address a letter to the church in such and such a town in hopes someone will receive it. Letters come to the post office in Mammoth Spring addressed to churches which have not met for 25 or 30 years. A number of copies of the same letter will come addressed to our street corner, simply to the town, and a few to the church in care of certain persons.

Every congregation of the Lord's people receives more requests for financial assistance than they can possibly take care of. Most likely, some very needy work has suffered because their request went out after requests from some not-so-needy group who painted such a pitiful picture of themselves. Brethren, take the time to carefully look into that work you are about to help. If they are indeed worthy, by all means, help them.

"Satan is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping Christian."

NINE THINGS

GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW

1. That all men are sinners - (Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:23; 5:12).
 2. That you cannot be saved in your sins - (Matt. 7:23; I Cor. 6:9, 10).
 3. That you can be saved from your sins - Mk. 2:17; I Cor. 6:11; Rom. 6:16-18).
 4. That God wants you to be saved - (I Tim. 2:3; 2 Pet. 3:9).
 5. That he makes it possible for you to be saved - (I Pet. 2:21-24; Tit. 2:11-14; John 16:6).
 6. That he expects you to save yourself by obeying his revealed will - (2 Tim. 2:15; Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:12-16; Acts 2:40).
 7. That he wants you as a sinner to believe in Jesus Christ as his Son (Heb. 11:6); repent of all your sins (Acts 17:30), confess with the mouth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Mat. 10:32), and be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26, 27).
 8. That if you are lost and go to Hell it will be your own fault - (John 5:39, 40; Rev. 22:17; Matt. 11:28-30).
 9. That he is not willing that any be lost, but that all obey and be saved - (2 Pet. 3:9).
- Friend, will you not accept the Savior's offer of salvation by obeying the gospel?

MAY WE ALWAYS HAVE—

Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
Enough trials to keep us strong;
Enough sorrow to keep us humble;
Enough hope to keep us happy;
Enough failure to keep us humble;
Enough success to keep us eager;
Enough friends to give us comfort;
Enough faith in ourselves to give us courage;
Enough wealth to meet our needs;
And
Enough determination to make each day a good day.
—via Firm Foundation.

"He who prides himself on saying what he thinks should be careful what he thinks."

By Grace, Through Faith

All men have sinned. "The wages of sin is death". If we all received that which is justly due us after this life is over, it would be eternal punishment in hell. "But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) A gift is something given which the receiver has not earned. That quality in one which prompts the giving of gifts is grace. If man is saved at all from the torment of hell, it will be by the grace of God. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8) Notice that grace extends salvation to mankind "through faith". God, through grace, offers; man, through faith, accepts. Salvation is not ours because of our attaining sinlessness (referred to in Eph. 2 as "work"), but "through faith". From the passage in Rom. 6 we learn that salvation is given us through Jesus Christ. We see then that God extends the unmerited favor to us that we can be saved through faith in Jesus Christ. That is exactly the teaching of John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." But give attention to the matter of the location of the man of faith who is saved. "Whosoever believeth IN HIM. How is it the believer gets into Christ? Those of Galatia who were saved were men of faith IN CHRIST. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." They were what we desire to be. How did they get that way? "For as man of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3: 26,27) But isn't that work? No, not in the sense of sinlessness referred to by "Work" in Ephesians. Being baptized is not earning salvation any more than marching around the walls of Jerico was earning the victory over

that city. (Joshua 6) We thus conclude that the grace of God has provided that if we believe and will be baptized into Christ, we will be saved. This is precisely what Mark 16:16 says: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." That quality of grace in God prompted Him to work out the plan, send Christ, and reveal the plan whereby we are saved. In order for us to benefit by this, we must have the quality of faith which prompts us to obey the things contained in that plan. In that salvation is not ours because of our sinlessness, (which we cannot attain), and that it is not even in our power to devise a plan whereby we might be forgiven, it is said that salvation is "not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:9).

Richard England

WHAT A WONDERFUL FASCINATING DAY TOMORROW IS!

Tomorrow is the day when the drunkard is to be sober,
When the dishonest man will practice integrity.
When the slothful man will become industrious.
When the licentious man will be chaste.
When the spendthrift will begin to economize.
When the sinner will be saved.
When some will begin helping the fatherless.
When some will become faithful in attendance to all services!
Really, tomorrow is Satan's appointed time for you to do all these good things. Jesus says: "Now is the accepted time: Today is the day of salvation." Putting off until tomorrow shuts the door to accomplishments, and to salvation.

Do not let the good things you plan for tomorrow take the place of good things you must do today. "Ye know not what shall be on the morrow"

—James 4:14

The good you can do for the church is great, and is needed. But do it today, "for ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time

and then vanisheth away." James 4:14.

—Selected

A COG OR A CLOG??

Every member of the Lord's church is either a Cog or a clog in the wheel of progress in the Cause of Christ. WHICH ARE YOU?? Is the church growing because of you or in spite of you?

We hope you are a "cog," but if you are a "clog" think how much greater the work we could do with you and your abilities! If, however, you decide to remain a "clog" our Bible classes on Sundays and Wednesdays, our gospel meetings and vacation Bible schools will continue just the same. We readily admit that these good works would be more successful if YOU would decide to become a "cog." The church needs your help and would grow much more with your assistance, but we will not quit even if YOU decide to.

Most of all you need the Lord and His Church. Do you honestly think you can be saved in your present condition of lukewarmness indifference and negligence?? Even though God loves you, and is grieved as any of us are over the way you are failing the church, do you think He will say to you in that Last Day. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant?"

Think of all the good that could be done with your help. How many more souls could be led to Christ IF you were faithful? This thought saddens us. Does it grieve you?

Which are you, a cog or a clog in the Lord's work? ?

John H. Alley

"The kind of religion that makes a man look sick can't be expected to cure the world."

"When a man starts to sing his own praises, he always gets the tune pitched too high."

Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

Three Types of Believers

Orbie Robbins
Elizabeth, Arkansas

In the New Testament we have three different types of believers: (1) Those that believe and do nothing about it, (2) Those that believe and do the wrong thing, (3) and those that believe the right thing and act upon it.

Now let us consider the first type of believer mentioned: those that believe and do nothing about it. James said: "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (James 2:20) The chief rulers in John 12:42, 43 set forth this type of believer. Many of them "believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." Agrippa is another example. He believed and was almost persuaded to be a Christian, but did nothing about it. (Acts 26:28) Felix, upon hearing the truth, trembled but did nothing about it. (Acts 24:24-27) Those who obey the gospel but do not work come under this type. (2 Pet. 2:20-22)

Secondly are those that believe and do the wrong thing. It makes a difference what one believes and obeys. Solomon wrote: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5) Also: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12) Paul said the Jews had a zeal of God but not according to knowledge. They believed, but did the wrong thing. (Romans 10:1-4) Paul believed and practiced the wrong things before he became a Christian. He held the coats of those who stoned Stephen (Acts 7:58) He persecuted the church. He did many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth and thought he was doing God a service. He did those things in all good conscience. (Acts 23:

1; Acts 26:9-11) What was wrong with Paul's faith? He believed and practiced the wrong things. People can believe and do the wrong things today just as Paul did.

Now to the third type of believer those that believe the right thing and act upon it. The Pentecostians heard, believed, and obeyed the truth, thus becoming Christians, members of the church. (Acts 2:22-47) The Eunuch upon hearing the truth, believed and obeyed it, then went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8: 35-39) The Philippian jailor and his house heard, believed and obeyed the truth the same hour of the night and were baptized. (Acts 16:30-34)

It does make a difference what type of believer we are. Believing and doing nothing about it is a dead faith. Those that believe and practice the wrong thing cannot be saved. Those that believe and obey the truth are made free from sin (John 8:31, 32) and will be saved eternally if they continue in the truth. (Rev. 2:10; Rev. 22:14).

Are You Giving as Prospered?

- CLOVIS RAGSDALE

One of the fairest commands of all the Bible is the one concerning giving. 1 Cor. 16:2, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come." The amount we give to the Lord is based on the amount we have been prospered. The Christians in New Testament times often went beyond and gave beyond that which was expected, the Macedonian brethren, Barnabas, and the Jerusalem church, are examples. It is doubtful if very many Christians today even give as they are prospered.

We are living in times that are unmatched in all of history as far as prosperity is concerned, the average person today is rich when compared with the people of Biblical times. Indeed, the people of

America can be classified as being rich in comparison with the people of other nations even today. The great majority of the people living today are underfed, and live in deep poverty.

What is a rich man? Food, clothing, and shelter are the basic needs of man. When we have these in plentiful supply then we are rich. Most Americans are blessed with all three and have much more in the way of luxuries. These things must be taken into consideration when we plan our giving. Greater ability means greater responsibility. First Century Christians were able to spread the Gospel over all the world. With greater opportunity and greater abilities we should be able to equal or surpass all that has been done before.

We have not come close to evangelizing the world yet. If it is to be accomplished in the twentieth century, a much greater effort will have to be put forth than has been in the past forty years. The biggest hinderance to achieving this goal has been a lack of funds with which to send men to all the world. A goodly number of qualified men are available, thanks to our Christian schools. The plan the Lord gave for carrying the Gospel into all the world is dependent upon Christians giving as they are prospered. If we fail to do this the only conclusion to be reached is that we are not giving as we are prospered. This could cause us to lose our own souls and because we do not take it to others, they too will be lost. This is a most serious matter. The solution is for every person to examine his giving and grow in this grace. This will set off a chain reaction and the church will grow in accordance with the growth of the individual. Remember the plan is fair to the individual. Are we fair to the Lord?

"No masterpiece was ever created in a day nor was a sculptor, artist, architect. So it requires years to build a master life and years to die a glorious death."

"Wisdom is knowing what to do next."