

# Fulton County Gospel News

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## The Establishment of The Church

Isaiah prophesied it would come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lords house would be established in the top of the mountains and would be exalted above the hills and all nations would flow unto it. And many people would go and say come ye and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord to the house of the God of Jacob and he will teach of his ways and he will walk in his path, for out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Isaiah three, verses one through three. Isaiah was saying there that the Church would be exalted above any earthly government or organization that man could build.

In the second chapter of the book of Daniel we read where Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon had a dream that troubled him and his sleep went from him. He called in the wise men of Babylon to interpret the dream. They were unable to, unless the King could tell them what he had dreamed, but the King could not remember what he had dreamed, and demanded that the wise men be killed. Daniel being one of the wise men was to have been killed as well as the rest of them, but God revealed the interpretation to Daniel, so Daniel told the King he had saw a great image and the sight was terrible. It had parts of fine gold and silver and iron and clay thou sawest all that. A stone was cut out without hands and smote the other images. And in the days of these Kings shall the God of Heaven set up a Kingdom that shall never be destroyed and the Kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these Kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. In the Book of Matthew Christ ask his disciples whom do men say that I, the son of man am and they said some say thou art John the Baptist some Elias and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. He sayeth but whom say ye that I am, and Simon Peter answered and said thou art the Christ the son of the living God. Jesus said blessed art Simon Barjona for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee that thou art Peter and upon

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## Today I Saw Truth

Today I saw truth. For a moment I lived and breathed in the great presence of truth and felt its sweetness plunge deep into my soul.

I am a coach in a Junior High School. I work with 500 boys each day. This has been my occupation for over 20 years. I enjoy it.

Traditionally, I am supposed to be rugged, tough, crusty; yet underneath this exterior, feeling and understanding must exist if the job is to be done.

Today was test day in climbing the rope. We climb from a standing start to a point 15 feet high. One of my tasks these past few weeks has been to train and teach the boys to negotiate this distance in as few seconds as possible.

The school record for this event is 2.1 seconds. It has stood for three years. Today this record was broken. But this is not my story. HOW this record was broken is the important thing here, as it so often is in many an endeavor in life.

For three years Bobby Palacio, a 14 1/2-year-old Mexican boy, has trained and pointed and, I suspect, dreamed of breaking this record.

In his first of three attempts Bobby climbed the rope in 2.1 seconds, tying the record. On the second try the watch stopped at 2.0 seconds flat, a record! But, as he descended the rope and the entire class gathered around to check the watch, I knew I must ask Bobby a question. There was a slight doubt in my mind whether or not the board at the 15 foot height had been touched. If he missed, it was very, very close—not more than a fraction of an inch—and only Bobby knew this answer.

As he walked toward me, expressionless, I said, "Bobby, did you touch?" If he had said, "Yes," the record he had dreamed of since he was a skinny seventh-grader and had worked for almost daily would be his, and he knew I would trust him at his word.

With the class already cheering for him for his performance, the slim brownskinned boy shook his head negatively. And in this simple gesture, I witnessed a moment of greatness.

Coaches do not cry. Only babies cry, they say. But as I reached out to pat this boy on the shoulder, there was a small drop of water in each eye. And it was

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## Revival of Witchcraft

By Clovis Ragsdale

In recent years there has been a revival of interest in witchcraft and mystical cults. Most people think of witchcraft as belonging to the superstition and ignorance of bygone ages. A witch, riding on a broomstick, is a symbol of the Halloween season, somewhat like the Easter bunny and Santa Claus. But witchcraft is for real and is not a myth. The Bible speaks of witches and witchcraft a number of times, and is accepted as a fact. Exodus 22:18, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." 1 Samuel 15:23 speaks of the sin of witchcraft. The Law of Moses authorized that witches be put to death. This practice continued long after the Law of Moses had ceased. Early American history speaks of the practice of putting witches to death. Paul speaks of witchcraft as being a work of the flesh in Gal. 5:20, and thus sinful.

The dictionary defines a witch as, "a woman who forms a pact with the devil or with evil spirits." The word witch comes from the word wicked.

Recent articles in newspapers call attention to the fact that the practice of witchcraft is growing in America and European countries. It is related to the rising tide of cults and far out practices of worshipping even the devil. It seems that man, to satisfy his instinct to worship, seeks to worship anything and everything that is opposed to the true God. To worship Satan would seem to be the ultimate in turning ones back on God. It would show the depth of depravity that man can go to in being sinful.

We are living in unusual times. Man seems to be groping here and there seeking he knows not what. If only he would look to the Bible he would be able to find the answers to his many problems and could use his energies to worship the true God.

TV: A device that changes a child from an irresistible force to an immovable object.

"The trouble with success is that the formula is the same as the one for a nervous breakdown.



## The Fulton County Gospel News

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EDITORS: Clovis Ragsdale  
and James E. Henley.

## A FAITH THAT FADED

Yes, I've seen the lofty spire aglow  
In the redness of the sun's retreat.  
They were built there many years ago  
When the church was in, and out, complete.  
Now, the brightness of that hallowed hour,  
Is dimmed a dark and muddy grey;  
For, that sacred place of vesper power,  
Is not captive of the vagrant sway:  
Far from the realm of reason and truth,  
WIDE OF THE MARK OF SUSTAINING FAITH;  
No lifting hand for a stumbling youth;  
Just a SHADOW, OF A REIGNING WRATH.  
Who killed the spirit that once lived there?  
Who starved the flock on a skimmed-milk creed?  
Who failed to draw the line somewhere?  
And JOINED THE CROWD IN THE HOUR OF NEED?  
Although misled souls may find their way,  
Though leaders fail, and mire in a muddle.  
No wonder then, staunch members can hardly stay  
With Bible MEANINGS DASHED TO RUBBLE.

Anonymous

Juvenile delinquency is the result of parents trying to train their children without starting at the bottom.

## Does God Hate?

The question is asked: Can God, who is LOVE, hate? "God is love" (I John 4:8) is declared so often that many mistake Jehovah, who is gracious, kind, compassionate, and all understanding, as One so permissive He will accept anyone's terms, save everyone, condemn or judge no one.

This is not true. (Read Matt. 7:13-14; 21-23)

GOD HATES SIN. Jesus was a hater of hypocrisy, "Woe unto you, scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites! Ye tithe mint and anise and cummin, and have left undone the weightier matters of the law, justice, and mercy, and faith: These ye ought to have done, and not have left the other undone." (Read Matt. 23:1-12; 23-28)

YOU HYPOCRITES!! Those words sting. Isn't a hypocrite one who pretends to live godly and who secretly practices dishonesty, adultery, etc.?

Yes. It can also be one who is self deceived. The text does not indicate those scribes and Pharisees knew they were hypocrites. Yet Jesus called them hypocrites! We say: (1) "You are more concerned with being 'great men' in your religion than in pleasing God." (2) "You are so sure your own interpretations of God's will is correct, you refuse to learn from anyone else." (3) "You are tragically inconsistent." You observe small things meticulously, giving a tenth of even your herbs, but you are careless about really important things—justice, mercy, and faith.

Many simply ignore SIN. God's unchanging hatred of sin runs all through the Bible. "Thou, God, lovest righteousness and hatest wickedness (Ps. 45:7).

God HIMSELF provides man's freedom from servitude of sin. God wants to defeat sin. He hates sin. He loves the sinner and provides a way out. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." "God so loved . . . He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved . . . but he that believeth not is condemned already" . . . (John 3:16-18).

Sin destroys. Jesus came to give LIFE! (John 14:6). Man chooses sin, misery, ruin and a soul lost for eternity — OR, cleansing, joy, peace, righteousness, and ETERNAL LIFE. It comes about by the NEW BIRTH — Jesus said, "Except a

## A Cause of Division

Much division is caused by simply adding to the word of God by practicing things not found in God's book. Sprinkling for baptism, infant baptism, most religious names, denominations, instrumental music in worship are a few examples.

Oddly enough much division is also caused by religious practices and doctrines plainly contradicted by the scriptures. Let us notice some examples of the contradictions between what many churches teach and what the Bible teaches.

I. "Saved by Faith Only." "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and NOT by faith only" (James 2:24).

II. "Just Pray Through." "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). "And now why tarriest thou? arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

III. "Once in Grace, Always in Grace." "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Gal. 5:4).

IV. Women Preachers. "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak;" (1 Cor. 14:34). "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (1 Tim. 2:12).

Unity is important. Doing all things in the name of the Lord is also important (Col. 3:17). When we do ALL in the name of the Lord — by His authority — we will be united. The price for unity may be great. We may have to give up practices and beliefs which have become dear to us. But the price we pay for division is far greater, and the evils of this terrible sin must not be tolerated. We must be one in Christ. He prayed for this; He died for it; He demands it of us. Surely we love Him enough to accept the "unity of the Spirit" and KEEP it diligently (Eph. 4:3).

man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." THE CHOICE IS YOURS! WHICH WILL IT BE?

(The above article is adapted from a thought and tract submitted by Mrs. Katherine Grothwohl of Peconic, N. Y. and POWER FOR TODAY, Thurs. Nov. 4, 1971)



## He is Nothing but a Little Boy

LISTEN SON: I am saying this to you as you lie asleep, one little paw crumpled under your cheek and the blond curls stickily wet on your damp forehead. Just a few moments ago as I sat reading in the library, a hot stifling wave of remorse swept over me. I could not resist it. Guiltily I came to your bedside.

These are the things I was thinking, son; I have been cross to you. I scolded you as you were dressing for school because you gave your face merely a dab with a towel. I took you to task for not cleaning your shoes. I called out angrily when I found you had thrown some of your things on the floor.

At breakfast I found fault, too. You spilled things. You gulped down your food. You put your elbows on the table. You spread butter too thick on your bread. As you started off to play and I made for my train, you turned and waved a little hand and called, "Good-bye, Daddy." And I frowned and said in reply, "Hold your shoulders back!"

Then I began all over again in the late afternoon. As I came up the hill road I spied you, down on your knees playing marbles. There were holes in your stockings. I humiliated you before your boy friends by making you march ahead of me back to the house. Stockings were expensive—and if you had to buy them you would be more careful! Imagine that son, from a father! It was such stupid, silly logic.

Do you remember later, when I was reading in the library, how you came in softly, timidly, with a sort of hurt, hunted look in your eyes? When I glanced up over my paper, impatient at the interruption, you hesitated at the door. "What is it you want?" I snapped.

You said nothing, but you ran across in one tempestuous plunge, and threw your arms around my neck and kissed me, again and again and again, and your small arms tightened with an affection that God had set blooming in your heart and which even neglect could not wither.

And then you were gone, pattering up the stairs.

Well, son, it was shortly afterwards that my paper slipped from my hand and a terrible, sickening fear came over me. Suddenly, I saw myself as I really was, in all my horrible selfishness, and I felt sick at heart. What had habit been doing to me? The habit of complaining, of finding fault, of reprimanding—all of these were my rewards to you for being a boy. It was not that I did not love you; it was that I expected so much of youth. I was measuring you by the yardstick of my own years.

And there was so much that was good, and fine, and true in your character. You

## A Word About The Church of Christ

Throughout America many people are today asking questions about churches of Christ. The rapid growth of the church in the past few years, coupled with extensive preaching of the gospel in America and throughout the world has brought to the attention of the public those of us who call ourselves only Christians — members of the church of Christ. The nationwide Herald of Truth radio and television programs have reached into areas where the undenominational plea had not previously been heard. Similarly, the gospel has been advertised in national magazines and has reached hitherto inaccessible places. Also, an ever-increasing number of preachers have been going into mission areas both in the United States and in other countries of the world. The growth of the church has also caused many to become interested in knowing more. According to the latest volume of the World Almanac, churches of Christ now include some 2,365,500 members, dispersed through some 19,200 congregations.

There is a natural tendency to classify all religious groups into one of three categories, giving each the label Catholic, Protestant, or Jewish. It is the common practice of people of our day to classify the church of Christ as just another denomination of the Protestant group. However, the category does not fit.

We are attempting to be in truth and in fact just what people were in New Testament time—Christians, members of the Lord's church. If the apostle Paul were here today and someone should ask

him if he were a Protestant, he would not understand the question. Paul never claimed to be a Protestant. He was a follower of Christ, simply a Christian.

The church, as the pillar and ground of the truth, protests just as much against Protestantism as against Catholicism or Judaism. Christ's prayer was for unity. (John 17:20-21) Religious division is a prevalent cause of infidelity. Division as it is practiced today is a mark of worldliness. (I Cor. 3:1-4) Therefore the church, if it is the church of Christ, cannot succumb to party names, to human ordinances or to the preaching of a denominational message. It is impossible for the church to perpetuate a system which necessarily causes and cements division and discord. There are points of similarity between the church which Christ established and modern-day Protestantism, but the church is not Protestant. It is the undenominational church of the living God.

Churches of Christ have no creed, except the inspired word of God. No conferences or conventions are held to draw up, or to revise the doctrines of the church. Each of the thousands of the congregations is autonomous, guided only by the Bible. Churches of Christ, in the absolute sense, do not teach anything; they simply hear and heed the teachings of Christ. We are endeavoring to be a part of Christ's church and encourage all men to join with us in going back to his church, the only church that has the promise of God's approval and of salvation in the great day of judgment.

Selected from the Gospelizee

did not deserve my treatment of you, son. The little heart of you was as big as the dawn itself over the wide hills. All this was shown by your spontaneous impulse to rush in and kiss me goodnight.

I have prayed God to strengthen me in my new resolve. Tomorrow I will be a real daddy! I will chum with you, and suffer when you suffer, and laugh when you laugh. I will bite my tongue when impatient words come. I will keep saying as if it were a ritual: "He is nothing but a boy — a little boy!"

Nothing else matters, son. I have come to your bedside in the darkness, and I have knelt here, choking with emotion and so ashamed! It is a feeble atonement. I know you would not understand these things if I told them to you during your waking hours, yet I must say what I am saying. I must burn sacrificial fires, alone, here in your bedroom, and make free confession.

I am afraid I have visualized you as a man. Yet as I see you, son, crumpled and weary in your cot, I see you are still a baby. Yesterday you were in your mother's arms, your head on her shoulder. I have asked too much, too much!

Dear boy! Dear little son! A penitent kneels at your infant shrine, here in the moonlight. I kiss the little fingers, and the damp forehead, and the curls, and, if it were not for waking you, I would snatch you up and crush you to my breast.

Tears came: and heartache, and remorse, — and I think a greater, deeper love when you ran through the library door and wanted to kiss me!

Author unknown

(Taken from the book: MUST THE YOUNG DIE TOO?)



## The Establishment Of The Church (Cont.)

this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

In the second chapter of Acts we read where when the day of Pentecost was fully come they were all in one place with one accord. This was the first Pentecost after Christ was crucified. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a mighty rushing wind and it filled all the house where they were sitting. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and they began to speak with other tongues, as spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, Devout men out of every Nation under Heaven. The multitude were confounded every man heard them speak in his own language, and they were amazed and in doubt. Others mocking and said these men were full of new wine but Peter standing up with the eleven lifted up his voice and said Ye men of Judaea and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, these are not drunken as you suppose seeing is but third hour of the day, but this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel and it shall come to pass the days sayeth God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh your sons and your daughters shall prophesie your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams. And I will shew wonders in Heaven above before the great and notable day of the Lord come, and it shall come to pass that whosoever call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Ye men of Israel hear these words Jesus of Nazareth a man approved of God among you, Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God you have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain whom God hath raised up, because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

For David speaketh concerning him I fore saw the Lord always before my face for he is on my right hand that I should not be moved, therefore did my heart rejoice and my tongue glad, more over my flesh shall rest in hope because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to see corruption. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God made this same Jesus whom you have crucified both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this they were pricked in their hearts and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, men and brethren what shall we do. Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. There were about three thousand added to them on that day and this was the beginning of the Church.

Amos M. McCord

## Evolution and Christianity or Evolution Versus Christianity

In the October "71" issue of the Christian Herald (The counterpart to Christianity Today among protestant denominationalism), Louis Cassels wrote an informative and, in the main, good article concerning obstacles the Church had to overcome in its growth. Of course, Cassel being a member of protestantism, said many things with which I naturally could not agree, but he said one very unnatural thing with which I register an emphatic disagreement. In his article he states that Darwin's theory of evolution only "seemed to contradict the story of man's creation. Thus, evolution... has turned out to be a potent, rational support for Christian belief in a creator." Cassels may not be a believer in evolution but his remarks might be taken as if he were.

I would like to adduce the following statements of men who are scientifically qualified to speak on the subject of God, man and evolution. I ask the reader to compare these statements with those of Cassels.

Dr. Harry Rimmer states, essentially, what evolutionists believe concerning what Moses meant when he penned Gen. 1:26, 27. When Moses wrote that God created man, he was simply telling of man's "metamorphosis from worms into human beings" (The Harmony of Science & Scripture, p. 66). Rimmer also says, "for every fact and proof that militates against the truth of the theory of organic evolution (as postulated by Darwin, MLW) is a tremendous argument in favor of the fact of special creation" (The Theory of Evolution And The Facts of Science, p. 44). To admit evolution is to falsify special creation as revealed in Genesis 1. Darwin's "theory of evolution leads to such consequences as Nazism" (Paul A. Zimmerman, P.H.D., A Synposium on Creation, p. 77). Dr. Henry M. Morris says, "that no compromise with the standard evolutionary chronology, either for the earth as a whole or for man in particular, is possible at all... evolutionary framework... proved false" (Biblical Cosmology and Modern Science, p. 68). "Evolution contradicts the theory of uniformitarianism, the first law of thermodynamics, and the second law of thermodynamics; Theistic evolution contradicts the Bible" (Otis Gatewood, LL. D., There is a God In Heaven, pp. 230-232, 237). "Evolution is basically anti-Christian" (John C. Whitcomb, Th.D., and H. M. Morris, The Genesis Flood, pp. 440-442). The theory of evolution is not logical nor agreeable with

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## Today I Saw Truth (Cont.)

with great effort through a tight throat that I told the class: "This boy has not set a record in the rope climb. No, he has set a much finer record for you and everyone to strive for. He has told the simple truth."

After the other boys had finished their next turns and Bobby came up to the rope for his try, a strange stillness came over the gymnasium. Fifty boys and one coach were breathlessly set to help boost Bobby Palacio to a new record. He climbed the rope in 1.9 seconds! A school record, a city record and perhaps close to a national record.

When the bell rang and I walked away, now misty-eyed, from this group of boys, I was thinking, "Bobby, little brown skin, with your clear, bright, dark eyes and your straight, trim, lithe body—Bobby, at 14 you are a better man than I am. Thank you for climbing so very, very high today."

—Elam Hill  
—In "Beckon" Bridge City, Texas

all facts of science (Foy L. Kirkpatrick, D.R.E., Six Thousand or Six Billion Years?, p. 37). "More and more scientists are going on record as believing that the closed cycle hypothesized by Darwin could not happen" (James Reid, God, The Atom, and the Universe, p. 186).

—Mike L. Wilson

Wannoch Spring, Arkansas  
Evolution