

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

June, 1959

Pocahontas Meeting A Tremendous Success

The meeting at Pocahontas, Ark. closed last Sunday night, May 17, 1959, with 121 having responded to the invitation. Bro. Jimmy Allen did the preaching in a masterful way. We rejoice in the success of the church in Pocahontas, and pray that the Lord will continue to bless them. Our very best wishes to Jimmy in his continued work on behalf of the Lord's Cause. Of the 121 responses, 67 were baptized, and 54 restored.

Creed of the Church

Wesley Hylton

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines **creed** as follows: fr L credo I believe, at the beginning of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. 1. Eccl. a brief authoritative formula of religious belief; spec., the Apostles', the Nicene, or the Athanasian. Creed. **The Creed** usually means the Apostles' Creed. b A summary of principles or opinions professed or adhered to, in science, politics, or the like. The term Credo is defined thus: L I delieve (the L indicates that the word originally came from the Latin) a creed; a set of professed opinions.

From the above definitions, it isn't difficult to see that a creed is something you believe. A summary of principles, opinions, etc, etc. The original meaning was I believe. This effectively demonstrates that a creed can be based on false assumptions. It could fall into the realm of opinion and still be a persons creed.

The bible mentions neither of the creeds found in the above definitions. The Nicene Creed was formulated in A. D. 325 and forms the basic of all modern creeds. The following is a good example.

"The churches, with common consent among us, do teach that the decree of the Nicene Synod concerning the unity See **CREED OF CHURCH** last page

Gospel Meetings

ELIZABETH, ARK. June 1 - 7, Max Patterson, Senatobia, Miss. the speaker.

CALICO ROCK, ARK. June 7 - 14 Jack Hobby the speaker.

TWIN CREEKS, ARK. June 15 - 21 Jack Hobby the speaker.

PILOT, ARK. June 15 - 23 Boyd Morgan speaker.

THAYER, MO. June 18 - 28 Riley Henry the speaker.

HATFIELD, MO. July 6 - 15 Wesley Hylton, Mammoth Spring, Ark the speaker. The meeting will be under a tent, and will be held in Lanton, Mo.

HEART, ARK. July 13 - ? Charles Coil the speaker.

AGNOS, ARK. July 17 - 26 Vance Greenway, Paragould, Ark. the speaker. Please note the beginning date should be July 17 instead of 18 as stated in the last issue.

CAMP, ARK. July 20 - 30 Lowell Blasingame of Grenada, Miss. speaker

MOUNTAIN VIEW, MO. July 20 - 29 Clifford Stewart Gainesville, Mo. the speaker.

MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK. Aug. 20 - 30 Riley Henry of West Plains, Mo. the speaker.

GATEWOOD, MO. Aug. 20 - 30 Wesley Hylton, Mammoth Spring, Ark. the speaker.

Meeting at Hardy, Ark. Riley Henry of West Plains, Mo., speaker. July 23rd through Aug. 2nd.

NEW PREACHER FOR MT. VIEW, MO.

Bro. Henry Casey will begin work with the church in Mt. View, Mo. around the first of June. We wish Bro. Casey the best of luck in his new work, and pray that the Lord will bless his efforts on behalf of the church.

What Is The Church of Christ?

Clovis Ragsdale

It is generally agreed that the word church means "the called out". The word is found for the first time in Matt. 16:18, where Christ stated that upon the statement of Peter that Jesus was the son of God, he would build his church. Then we could simply say that all who believe in Jesus Christ, repent of their sins, confess Christ as being Gods son, and are buried in baptism, become a part of the Church of Christ. This was preached for the first time on the day of Pentecost where some three thousand souls followed the above procedure. Others obeyed the gospel in the days that followed and in Acts 2:47, we are told that the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

After one becomes a member of the church, or kingdom, or house of God, as the church is sometimes referred to in the Bible, there is a pattern that we must live by in order to uphold the name of Christ. This plan of worship is to be found in the New Testament alone, as the Old Testament was written to the Jews and instructs how they were to live under the covenant God made with Moses. The life of a christian differs in many ways with that of those who kept the law. The New Testament teaches that all things that pertain to life and godliness in this dispensation of time are to be found within its pages, 2 Peter, chapter one. Furthermore it is taught that man is not to depart from that which has been revealed.

During the days of the apostles there were some who departed from the true plan of worship, 1 Cor. chapter one and Gal. 1:6. The departure became more pronounced in the centuries that followed, culminating in the dark ages when Roman Catholicism held sway in See **WHAT IS CHURCH** next page

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Editors—

Clovis Ragsdale
Wesley Hylton

the minds of the peoples of the earth. Martin Luther and others began to try to reform the catholic church in the sixteenth century. In the latter part of the eighteenth century, Barton Stone, Abner Jones, and James O'Kelly, to be followed later by Thomas and Alexander Campbell and others began to preach that we should go back to the original plan of the church as recorded in the New Testament. To speak where the Bible speaks and to be silent where it is silent in all matters of faith and practice.

Historically the churches of Christ are the result of an effort to restore the purity of the church that Jesus built, and which the apostles and early Christians were members of, to the world today. We aim to reproduce the exact pattern of doctrine and practice of the early church.

Many have failed to grasp the simplicity of our plea and have heaped abuse upon us for the stand we take on such matters as baptism for remission of sins, weekly observance of the Lord's Supper, abstaining from the use of instruments in worship, and other things. We believe that an unbiased study of the scriptures will prove us right on these matters.

Numbering between one and two million members today, we are striving to place our plea for New Testament christianity before the world. There are churches of Christ located in every state of the Union and many foreign countries. By the use of radio, TV, the printed page, and in sending gospel preachers, we are attempting to send the gospel to all parts of the world. Our hope is that we can say as did Paul in Col. 1:16, that the gospel of Christ has been preached in all the world, in our generation.

The Name of The Church

Don Smith

The world is full of religious groups wearing names not found in God's word. In order to justify themselves, it is not uncommon to hear them argue "There is nothing in a name." If this be true, then why do we read in Isaiah 62:2 "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be CALLED BY A NEW NAME, WHICH THE MOUTH OF THE LORD SHALL NAME. (emphasis mine. DS) Today more than two hundred names are evidence that they did not come from God. God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.

Let us notice a few points concerning the name which was to be given. First, it was to be given by God. Secondly, it was to be after the gentiles had seen the glory of God, that is after they were accepted as were the Jews. Since the Law was given only to the Jews, it must of necessity have been after the Law was abolished. This would bring it down to the conversion of Cornelius, the first gentile convert. Thirdly, it had something to do with the name of Christ for we read in Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Thus we come to the time that Barnabas went up into Tarsus to seek Saul. Together they returned to Antioch and continued there for a year teaching the gospel of Christ. The record says of this time in Acts 11:26 that "The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." Thus we see that the name Christian fits all the circumstances.

This poses another question. Does the name Christian apply to the church as a whole or just to the members thereof. Since the church is the bride of Christ. let us ask another question. Does the bride get her name from the children or from her husband? From her husband, of course. The same Christian, then, applies to the individual and not to the group. Some even wear the name of the best man or friend of the bridegroom. John said, "Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:28-30).

The names given to the church in the New Testament are names of description or names denoting ownership such as the church of God (1 Cor. 1:1) church of the firstborn (Heb. 12:23) and the churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16). Any name worn by the church must honor Christ in whom we find salvation, (Acts 4:12); Identify itself as the one which Christ built, (Matt. 16:18); which he purchased with his blood, (Acts 20:28). The name church of Christ does all this.

Membership of The Church

Orbie Robbins — Elizabeth, Ark.

The Church in its established or operative State is first mentioned in Acts 2.

In Acts 2:41 it is stated. Then they that gladly received the word were baptized and the same day were added unto them about 3,000 souls.

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

In this chapter Acts 2 we have an inspiring example given showing how people became members of the New Testament Church for the first time.

The expression of teaching, "get saved and join the church of your choice is not found in the bible."

The same process or acts of obedience that saves or obtains for an individual remission of sins, enables them to become a member of the church.

Now let us consider what those people did in Acts 2 on Pentecost to obtain remission of sins or to become a member of the Church.

First the gospel was preached, Acts. 2:22,36.

Second they heard the gospel, Acts. 2:37.

Third they believed the gospel. Acts. 2:37.

Fourth they were commanded to "Repent and be Baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Acts. 2:38.

It is not specifically mentioned that they confessed their faith in Christ. But

it is necessarily inferred by the following Scriptures that they did. Rom. 10: 8,10 Matt. 10:32,33 Acts. 8:37.

Now let us sum up what they did in order to be saved or added to the church.

- 1 Heard the Gospel — Acts, 2:37.
- 2 Believed the Gospel — Acts. 2:37
- 3 Repented — Acts. 2:38
- 4 Confessed Christ — Rom 10:8, 10 Matt. 10:32, 33
- 5 Baptized for remission of sins Acts. 2:38.

Now in Acts. 2:47 it is shown that the Lord (not man) added these same people to the church when they had complied with those conditions of obedience. Acts. 2:41—Acts. 2:47.

Since the Lord added them to the church upon these conditions will he not do the same today? If not? Why not?

The Worship of The Church

Bob Hilburn, Hardy, Ark.

From the very dawn of man's existence he has always shown a desire to worship something. It is only natural for man to seek some object to which he can pay his homage and respect; something or someone to whom he can look for guidance in this life and who promises things of a better nature in a time after this life is over. In seeking this object of worship some have made images with their hands while others have turned to the different elements of nature such as the sun, moon and stars. When Christ came to this earth it was not his purpose to make man WORSHIP, but to make him RIGHT in his worship. He pointed out that it is not enough just to have an OBJECT of worship, but that one must have the RIGHT object. He stressed that man should have the RIGHT spirit, and conduct his worship in the RIGHT way. All of this he left with us in his word, and in order to be assured of acceptable worship we should conduct it in accordance with that word.

In John 4:24 Jesus said, "God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Here our Master presents GOD as the right object; "IN SPIRIT" as the right spirit and "IN TRUTH" as the right way. As we worship God, we must do

so "in spirit" or with the right attitude of mind. This is just as important as choosing God as the object of our worship. Not only is this true, but we are also instructed to worship "in truth", or in accordance with the truth which is the word of God. (John 17:17). It is therefore possible for one to strive to worship GOD in the RIGHT SPIRIT and still be WRONG as a result of worshipping according to the commandments of men rather than in the way the Bible instructs, (Matt. 15:9).

The church of which we read in the Bible worshipped God according to the instructions of the apostles. These instructions are still in existence today in the various books of the New Testament. If we worship exactly as did the early church then we have the assurance of the word of God that He will accept us in our efforts.

There are five acts recorded in the New Testament by which we worship our Creator. Four of these are listed in Acts 2:42 where Luke records, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." As we consider these acts one at a time we find first of all that the Jerusalem church continued in the APOSTLE'S DOCTRINE. We have an account of Paul's teaching the word of God at a worship service in Troas as recorded in Acts 20:7. The command to teach is one that always finds a place in Christian worship. (2 Tim. 4:2; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15). The next act was that of FELLOWSHIP, and it is generally agreed by the scholars of the world that this has reference to the giving of our means as God has prospered us. Other commands to give on the first day of the week may be found in 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Matt. 6:19-21 and in many other instances. The third listing of Acts 2:42 is that of the BREAKING OF BREAD. This act of worship was instituted by our Lord as recorded in Matt. 26:26-28 and was practiced by the church at Troas upon the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7). Last of all was listed the practice of prayers. Jesus taught that a man ought always to pray and not to faint, (Luke 18:1) and Paul commanded that Christians should "Pray without ceasing". (1 Thes. 5:17). Prayer is a privilege of the Christian which should be continually guarded by a constant participation therein. The

act not listed in Acts 2:42 yet that is taught elsewhere is the singing of praises unto God. Paul exhorted to sing "with melody in the heart" (Eph. 5:19), "with grace in the heart" (Col. 3:16), and "with the spirit and with the understanding". (1 Cor. 14:15).

If we will sincerely and reverently worship God in these acts with no additions or subtractions we have the assurance of our Lord that our worship will be pleasing. We invite you to investigate the church of Christ where each of these acts may be found being practiced each Lord's day of the year.

Ten Reasons Why You Should Be A Member Of the Church of Christ

1. Because you can read about it in the Bible. Rom. 16:16.
2. It has no creed but the Bible, binds no name on the members but that of Christ. Acts 11:26 1Pet. 4:16
3. It speaks where the Bible speaks, and is silent where the Bible is silent. 1Pet. 4:11.
4. It exalts Christ as the **only** head of the church. Col. 1:18.
5. Because the acts of worship are patterned after the New Testament. Jn. 4:24
6. It teaches that scriptural unity can be obtained in all disputed doctrinal questions. 1Cor. 1:10
7. The church of Christ pleads for unity of all believers in Christ. Jn. 17:20,21
8. It is not a denomination, nor group of denominations, but the body of Christ. Col. 1:18. It was founded by Christ Himself. Matt. 16:18.
9. The aim of the church—to save lost souls by preaching the gospel; teaching godly living, and helping those in need. 1Cor. 15:1,4.
10. The future of the Church—eternal glory with Christ. 1Thess. 4:17.

— Selected

MAILING ADDRESS

Send all correspondence to Wesley Hylton, P. O. Box 237, Mammoth Spring, Ark. Questions and comments are invited.

CREED OF CHURCH from front page of the divine essence and the three persons in true, and without doubt to be believed." Augsburg Confession Of Faith, Article 1, Other examples could be given, but suffice it to say, the Nicene Creed has colored religious thinking for some 1600 years.

The Apostles' Creed is a term of human origin. The apostles did not advocate the making of creeds. In fact, they condemned religious division; the very thing creed making leads to. The term "Apostles' Creed" is not found in the Bible. The apostles did have a creed, (the same one we follow today) but they did not seek to bind upon others the things, or principles, they believed in as their own ideas. They always stressed that the things they taught were given to them by the Saviour. Therefore, they advocated no creed of their own making. The making and revising of creeds is a trait of modern day religion.

The creed of the Lord's church is Christ. Everyone that wants salvation and fellowship with God's people is asked to make this confession: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Acts 8: 36,37. Also notice Peter's confession in Matt. 16:18. We accept the Bible as being Divinely Inspired. It only is binding upon men. Any creed that contains less than the Bible contains too little. One that contains more than the Bible contains too much, and goes beyond Divine authority. One that contains only what the Bible teaches isn't necessary. We have the Bible, therefore, a set of stated principles (a creed) is unnecessary.

Human creeds are objectionable. They are the product of human reasoning. Therefore, they are unreliable. They frequently need revision. The same men that authorized their existence can make the changes. The gospel of Christ, which is the rule of faith and practice for all Christians, was given by the Holy Spirit, and cannot be subject to the whims of man.

All human creeds conflict with the Bible somewhere along the line. They reflect man's effort to govern himself in the field of religion. All faithful Christians recognize Christ as the head of His Kingdom, the church; that His laws are immutable; that human reasoning is foolish and unreliable, and therefore, the only safe course of conduct is to humbly submit to Christ and His authority. "Thy will be done."

The Purpose of The Church

Clovis Ragsdale

The statement has been made that the Bible contains the story of Christ, and the church exists to tell the story of Christ to the world. Then we could sum up the purpose of the Church in a few words by saying that it is to preach the gospel to all mankind. To better understand the purpose of the church, we need to understand what it means to preach the gospel. The gospel is the revealed facts concerning Christ, and how we should live to live a Christ-like life. Paul stated in 1Cor. 2:2, that he determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified. The entire new Testament centers around Christ and the duties of sinners to become Christians, and how to grow in faith and become better Christians as we live here in this life. That is why the church is to come together in assembly upon the first day of the week and on other occasions. In Acts 20:7, we learn of the early church meeting to take the Lord's Supper, which calls to our attention the death of Christ and the fact that he will come back again. Also, Paul preached unto them on that occasion. The church must continually teach and admonish itself, in edifying its members in carrying out their duties in teaching Christ to the lost and in living the faithful life that is expected of us. Eph. 4:16.

In Acts chapter six, we learn that the church has obligations of a physical nature in so much as needy widows with in the congregation were supplied the necessities of life, such as food. James 1:27 Gal. 6:10, and other passages teach the necessity of caring for the needy. However, the benevolent work of the church is secondary to helping those with matters pertaining to the salvation of the soul. Matt.10:28, and Matt. 16:26.

The church does not exist to glorify men, nor to entertain anyone. It is not social welfare of mankind. Many so called churches today have drifted far from the pattern given in the New Testament. When the church is allowed to function as New Testament churches did, it will grow and glow and go and will be successful in doing what God intended for it to do, namely to save souls and

glorify the name of his son Jesus Christ and in so doing will glorify God himself.

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NEWS ITEMS

Bro. Don Smith and Bro. Wesley Hylton will hold a mission meeting in Winona, Mo. beginning the first of June, and continuing for ten nights. The meeting will be held under a tent. All the folks in driving distance are encouraged to come often and support this effort to establish the Lord's work in Winona. This is a mission effort, and your support is needed badly.

Bro. Keith Boler is now preaching for the church in Wheeling on the first Sunday in each month. He also preaches for the church at Pilot on the second Sunday.

Bro. Don Smith took part in a Lectureship at Doniphan, Mo. during the past month. Good crowds and interest are reported.

Though a lie runs like lightning, the truth will eventually overtake it and "lick" both the lie and the liar.

"The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear."
—Socrates