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Boyd Morgan To Work With Church At Mammoth Spring

Clovis Ragsdale

Boyd Morgan of Kennett, Mo. will begin work with the congregation at Mammoth Spring on September 1. Brother Morgan is not a stranger to this area, having labored with the church at Mammoth for more than four years. He moved from Mammoth to Corning, Ark. and worked there for two years, after which he moved to Kennett for two more years.

Brother Morgan is a man of ability and experience. He has been preaching the Gospel for twenty-nine years and has held hundreds of meetings. Most of his work has been in north Arkansas and south Missouri. While at Mammoth Spring before he started the Fulton County Gospel News and served for four years as its editor. We welcome him back and look forward to working with him in editing this paper.

He can be heard on Radio Station KALM on alternating weeks. Sunday morning program is at 9 A.M. and week day programs came on the air at 11:45 A.M.

News

Brother Wesley Hylton held a meeting at Agnos in which two were baptized.

Two were baptized at Camp during the meeting which was conducted by Lowell Blasingame.

All day services and dinner on the ground were held at Welcome Hill on the first Sunday in August. This is an annual affair and is sometimes referred to as Pulley Day.

There were five baptized in the meeting at Jeff. Brother Starling of San Marcos, Texas was the preacher.

The church at Mammoth Spring has purchased a new home to be used as a preacher's home. It is located just west of city park.

Two were baptized in the meeting at Winona, which was held under the tent with Jerry Jones doing the preaching. Brother Boyd Morgan will be in a meeting there during the first part of September.

Perilous Times And What We Can Do About Them

L. F. Mills, Wichita, Kan.

Paul declares that perilous times would come (2 Tim. 3:1). Perilous times have developed many times since this declaration, wars, persecution, apostasy, etc. The "last days" here seems to encompass the whole of the Christian era rather than marking the time just prior to the end of time. "But the phrase may mean any future time, whether near or distant". (Adam Clarke, Vol VI, P. 633).

Since this seems to be a general warning, the results of which we should guard against, our concern should be to determine the perils before us today and to build against them. It is not enough to know that perilous times will

come, we must do something about them. Paul warned of the peril of the apostasy already at work, (2 Thess 2:7), yet the church left her first love because she failed to do the right things to prevent it happening. We are not different from other generations, we are not impervious to moral and spiritual perils.

We cannot deal with all of the known perils of the hour, therefore I bring to your attention a few of them which seem to be significant.

I. FORGETTING GOD

This has always been a malignant sin with God's people. (See Deut. 6:10-12).

"Can a maid forget her ornaments, and a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number". (Jer. 2:32). Paul expressed it, "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God". (2 Tim. 3:5). The ultra fabulous sports and entertainment industries today point to the trend. This usually results in a spiritual famine through neglect to the study the Bible and search the scriptures daily. (Acts 17:11). God said to Israel "Behold—I will send a famine—not a famine of bread, nor of thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord" (Amos 8:11. Read Mt. 4:4). Moderate recreation is healthful and to be desired, but temperance must be practiced lest we become "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God". J. Edgar Hoover has written, "We seem to have lost the sense of values which made this nation great. Self indulgence and the principle of pleasure before duty on a vast growing scale have become a phenomenon of our adult world. These are warning symptoms of the "decadence disease" which has contributed to the decay of so many civilizations throughout history". (This Week Magazine, Oct. 26, 1958. P. 9) The backsliding of members of the church is evidence that many have forgotten God.

II. DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS

This is no longer a possibility, nor a

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Editor— Clovis Ragsdale

Editorial

Boyd E. Morgan

We ought to be so full of the word of God that incidents of life will recall the scriptures to our minds. Aptly to mine comes these words of Paul: "But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me has flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity, not that I speak in respect of want for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:10-13.

My family and I are happy to be back home. We left friends where we have been but this is compensated by finding old friends welcoming us again. My aim in life is, and will be to live such a life as becomes the gospel of Christ and point souls to Jesus as the way.

There is no life that brings real happiness other than the Christian life. It holds hope after our short sojourn on the earth—it is the only life that does. A Christian's hope offers genuine security—security, that after toils and trials are endured and done with, the perfect life will begin.

To the unsaved, the end of this life means the beginning of the real sorrows. Repentings, mournings, weeping and gnashing of teeth. For them sorrow will be but begun. The non-Christian may be able to find times of pleasure and some momentary happiness here but the pleasures of sin are "but for a season". Death will mean an end of any happiness whatsoever. He will be deprived

of any moment of joy and of every pleasure he ever knew and eternity must be spent in sorrow and mourning.

My great joy will be to point out the Savior to the lost and lead in Redeeming souls from the curse of hell.

Some Counterfeits On Religion

Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark.

Three propositions need to be considered in connection with this subject.

First: Worthless things are never counterfeited.

Second: A counterfeit always agrees with the existence of the genuine.

Third: The closer the imitation the greater the danger.

For everything that God has taught in his Word which is essential to remission of sins and our eternal salvation, Satan has offered a counterfeit.

So no doubt that is why Paul said in 2 Cor. 2:11. Be not ignorant of Satan's devices. The counterfeits which Satan offers so closely resembles the genuine or what God has given that they are very deceptive.

Now let us consider some of the counterfeits Satan has offered in religion.

First the plan of salvation and its conditions of obedience. God has taught through his word that FAITH is essential to salvation. Heb. 11:6, Jno. 8:24. The counterfeit offered by Satan is that of the doctrine of FAITH ONLY. He adds just one word, the word "ONLY". In the Garden of Eden he added the word "NOT" and deceived or caused the fall of man. But there is not one example or statement in all the Bible with God's approval at the point of where anyone was ever blessed or met FAITH ONLY but their faith always expressed itself in some overt act of obedience, submission or trust.

Next God has said Repent or Perish, Lk. 13:3. He also teaches that the act repentance is a change of mind or will. Mt. 21:28.

Satan's counterfeit, Saved at the point of Faith only and that Godly sorrow is repentance whereas in contrast God teaches that Godly sorrow worketh repentance. 2 Cor. 7:8-10.

The Bible teaches that "CONFES-

SION" of our faith in Christ is a condition of Salvation and that it must be made before men with the mouth. Mt. 10:32-33, Rom. 10:8-10, Acts 8:37.

Satan's counterfeit is Confession of our feelings, and that it can even be made by signing our name to a card.

God has taught that BAPTISM is essential to Salvation. Mt. 16:15-16, Act 2:38, I Pet. 3:21.

Satan says that Baptism is unessential to Salvation. His perversion is get saved and be baptized if you prefer to in order to stand identified with some denominational church.

God has true ministers of the gospel.

Satan has ministers (2 Cor. 11:15) transformed as minister of righteousness. I Tim. 1:12.

God has given us the Gospel. 1 Pet. 4:17, Rom. 1:16.

Satan has given a perverted or changed gospel. Gal. 1:6-9, 2 Cor. 11:14.

God teaches that there is "ONE CHURCH". Mt. 16:18, Eph. 1:23, Col. 1:18, Eph. 4:4, Acts 2:47, and Eph. 5:23.

Satan teaches more than one church and that one church is as good as another. Join the church of your choice and be saved outside the church.

God teaches that there is ONE BAPTISM, and that it is a burial in water. Eph. 4:5, Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12, Acts 8:38 and 39.

God teaches that there is one name and that Salvation is in this name. Acts 4:11-12.

Satan teaches more than one name, and one name is as good as another, and that the name has nothing to do with our Salvation.

Many other counterfeits have been offered by Satan in the name of religion, but these are enough to point out the danger of being deceived by his counterfeits. What should be our attitude toward these? We should accept the genuine and reject the counterfeit. Because we surely would accept genuine money instead of counterfeit money. Our attitude in this respect will determine where we will spend eternity. Acceptance and obedience to what God has taught assures us a home in heaven in the after while. Rev. 22:14. Rejection of his word can offer nothing except eternal death and destruction. 2 Thess. 1:7-10.

Mud Hole Baptism

Wesley Hylton

Some people, being ignorant of the truth, jestingly refer to the church as baptizing in every mud hole they come to.

In the first place, such remarks show a decided lack of respect. Secondly, it reveals just how little they know of what the Bible teaches on this subject. Such remarks are made by people who have been misinformed. To combat the error advocated by the religious world in general, gospel preachers often emphasize baptism, and that it is essential to salvation. As a result, or perhaps it could be prejudice, some believe the church teaches "water salvation". Such accusations are, of course, not only unkind, they are untruthful.

Baptism is no more important than the other conditions of salvation. Which one can be left out? Without any of them we cannot please God. However, baptism is the final act of obedience that effects our entrance into Christ, and brings the remission of sins.

Why is baptism so important? One may equally ask, why is faith so important? To any thinking person, the answer is obvious. "It is impossible to please God" without faith. The same is equally true of baptism.

Just before our Saviour was baptized in the river Jordan he said, "Suffer it to be so now; for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." If our Lord was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, can we do so without following His example?

The term baptize is an Anglicized Greek word that means to immerse, dip, or plunge. The following scriptures should help us understand more about baptism, and what it is for.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

1. Element used—Water Acts 8:36
2. Much water Jn. 3:23
3. Going into water Acts 8:36
4. Burial Rom. 6:4
5. Resurrection Col. 2:12
6. Coming up out of water Mk. 1:10

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM?

1. "Fulfill all righteousness" Mt. 3:15
2. "Shall be saved" Mk. 16:16
3. "For the remission of sins" Acts 2:38

4. "Wash away sins" Acts 22:16
5. "Into Christ" Gal. 3:27
6. "Into his death" Rom. 6:3
7. "Doth also now save" ... I Pet. 3:21
8. "Walk in newness of life" Rom. 6:4
9. "Into one body" I Cor. 12:13

WHO MAY BE BAPTIZED?

1. Those who have been taught Mt. 28:19
2. Those who hear Acts 18:8
3. Those who believe Mk. 16:16
4. Those who repent Acts 2:38
5. Those who confess Acts 8:37

After reading the above scriptures, with an open mind, it would be difficult to see how anyone could say that baptism is not important. Unless, of course, they were motivated by prejudice.

Baptism is a positive command of the Lord. Acts 10:48, "And he commanded them to be baptized." In that case, it may be well to ask, "How do you know they were saved?" "Why they had already received the Holy Ghost! And not only that, but look at Jn. 14:27, it says that the world cannot receive the Spirit of Truth." The advocates of this doctrine may further point out that unless Cornelius was saved he couldn't receive the Holy Spirit, because the world cannot receive Him. This is a belabored effort to prove that the sinner is "dead", and cannot receive the Spirit until there is a "direct operation of the Holy Spirit" on his heart.

It is true that Cornelius received the Holy Spirit. There can be no doubt about it. But when Jesus said that He would send them another "Comforter," "Even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive," He was emphasizing the fact that worldly-minded people could not receive Him. If the world cannot receive Him, why did Christ send His disciples "into all the world" to preach the gospel to "every creature". We must understand what the Lord meant by "World". In some cases it refers to the people of the world. In others it means wickedness, sin, or any evil in connection with the people.

By the world (or worldly-minded) he meant those who are influenced only by the desires of the flesh. Such as: "The lust of the flesh; the lust of the eye, and the pride of life." 1 Jn. 2:16. They cannot receive Him because they have no spiritual discernment. Such evil and corrupt passions cannot be influenced by the Spirit of Truth.

Cornelius was not a worldly-minded

man. He was a religious man. One who prayed to God always, and gave much alms to the poor. He was a devout man, and feared God, with all his house. And even though he received the Holy Spirit before he was baptized that doesn't prove the doctrine of a "direct operation of the Holy Spirit, separate and apart from the Word of God." Our friends, who contend that he was already saved, fail to comprehend that this was a very special occasion. Cornelius received the Holy Spirit for a very special purpose. The purpose was to prove to Peter, and all Jews, that the Gentiles were to also enjoy God's blessings. Read Acts 11:18.

Up until that time only the Jews were God's chosen people. After Peter had recounted the events to his brethren in Jerusalem he said, "What was I, that I could withstand God?" He also said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted of him." To work righteousness includes baptism. Christ Himself was baptized "to fulfill all righteousness."

And if there is any doubt that Peter had the authority to command baptism we have only to look at Mt. 16:19. There Jesus said, "I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever ye shall bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven." Also, Christ told the apostles in Jn. 20:23, Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained." That should forever bind the matter. The apostles, and Peter was one of them, had the power to bind conditions for the remitting of sins. And friends, baptism was one of them. Acts 2:38. Peter used the above mentioned keys on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of our Lord from the dead. To those who heard that first gospel sermon and were pricked in their hearts, and cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins . . ." Thus in order for them to be saved, he bound baptism as a condition of salvation. And it is also bound in heaven.

Had Cornelius refused to be baptized when commanded by Peter (And he commanded them to be baptized. Acts

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10:48), there is no doubt that he would have been rejected by the Lord. Can you imagine Cornelius saying, "But Peter, I've already been saved. I don't need to be baptized. Oh, if you insist, I'll do it just to show that I have already been saved." How could he possibly have known he was saved? The angel had told him to send for Peter who would tell him what to do. Read Acts 10:33. Peter was in the process of doing that when the Holy Spirit came. In Acts 10:43, he said, "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." We have already established that baptism is for the remission of sins.

In Acts 10:33, Cornelius points out to Peter that they were all present to hear, "All that you have been commanded by the Lord." In Mt. 28:18, 20, the apostles were given the Great Commission. Jesus also told them that He had all authority. They were commanded to (1.) Go (2.) Teach (3.) Baptize in the name of the Father; the Son and the Holy Spirit. Since that is what the Lord commanded Peter to do, then he was only following instructions when he commanded Cornelius to be baptized.

Therefore, when we obey our Lord in baptism it makes us a "peculiar person," because the world is full of people who hoot at the very idea. To them, those who insist on doing God's will are "peculiar."

The Fundamental Issue

Delton Haun

The question facing every man is whether to obey God's word or not to obey God's word. This has been the issue from the beginning. In Eden Satan posed the question, "Yea, hath God said . . . ?" Eve sinned in rejecting God's word.

Lot's wife rejected God's command and looked back toward Sodom. The Israelites rejected God's word and built the calf-idol.

Nadab and Abihu rejected God's word and offered strange fire. Uzzah rejected God's word and touched the ark of the covenant. Jonah rejected God's com-

mand and fled from God's presence. King Saul rejected God's command and spared King Agag.

In the New Testament the Pharisees rejected God's word and substituted tradition and commandments of men. Jesus said, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:9).

It makes no difference what one may substitute for God's word. The sin is in rejecting God's word. It matters not whether the substitute has the endorsement of man or has a show of piety and is of long standing practice. It is not a choice between the teachings of man but God's word and the one thousand and one substitutes of man. It is sinful to accept anything but the word of God.

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threat, it is a national peril! Again Hoover writes, "Delinquency is a world-wide disease. . . . But we are concerned with the causes of juvenile delinquency in the USA. I believe that this menacing cloud mushrooming across the nation with its terrifying portents for the future, is indicative of a deep seated national illness" (Ibid). Sex offenses, drunkenness, illegitimacy, brutality, and general lawlessness among the young is increasing at an alarming rate. The divorce rate among young marriages is staggering. Recently in one month in Dallas County, Texas 800 marriages were recorded, but in the same month 700 divorces were recorded. (Foy Smith, Firm Foundation, July 26, 1960). The narcotics and dope traffic is preying upon the youth of our land, and is taking a deadly toll.

In fear and alarm we cry out, "What can we do?"

1. We can work hard to build better Bible classes wherein we are able to give our young people a sense of values and an understanding of life's greatest need.

2. We can, as parents, stay together, make our marriages work. Divorce usually makes more problems than it solves.

3. We can encourage preachers to preach the whole truth concerning these troublesome problems instead of rais-

ing a clamor at the mention of sin, divorce, drunkenness, etc.

4. We can usually send our children to a Christian college where they have a 75% greater opportunity to build an influential Christian than in state schools. The demands of the hour dictate an extensive education, let it be under Christian influence.

5. We can supply religious journals in our homes as a part of the reading material for all members of the family.

6. We can set before our children a good example of a faithful Christian life. Too many backsliding Christians demand that their children go to Bible study, worship, etc. but do not go themselves. This influence is chaff, and may make the fire of your own burning.

III. HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS

Religious ritualism and indifference have always been a menace to God's ways. Israel taught for doctrine the commandments of men (Mt. 15:9) and they crucified the Son of God because he stood in their way. Apostasy of the early church led into Catholicism and its lifeless ritualism. Now this very thing stands as a menace to the liberties of our nation with the possibility of a Catholic president at the head of a nation under the Pope as the head of the Catholic church. This is possibly a greater peril than Communism with its boasts and threats of atomic warfare, which is a dreadful thing, indeed. Again we ask, "What can we do?"

Christians have the political power of a vote as do other people. But we have another power greater than bomb or political maneuver, the power of prayer. If you are not in position to pray unto God, get in position NOW! "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (1 Pet. 3:12). If you need to obey the gospel, do it NOW! If you need to repent of your sins as an erring child of God, do it NOW! This is a time for men to grow tall, (Eph. 4:13), lest the peril of our time corrupt and destroy us. Perilous times are upon us, but the power of Godly lives is not to be marked down. Do we have enough to stay the flames of our peril? (See Gen. 18:20-33).