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FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

'The Churches of Christ Salute You' Rom. 16:16
MAY 1953

OUR AIM IN LIFE: GLORIFY GOD

I Cor. 10:31

Virgil Boler .. Mammoth Spring

God puts us in this world for one purpose and our aim in life should be to fulfill that purpose, namely to glorify God. The heavens declare the glory of God and the angels give thanks, honor and glory unto him. shall man alone be ungrateful?

Some one might say, why glorify God, first it is commanded, second a satisfaction of knowing we are pleasing God, third a grateful acknowledgement of God's goodness, fourth it is the only way to secure our own highest happiness, fifth being mindful of the danger of any other life. Examples... Acts 12:20-23, Dan. 5: 18-23, Rev. 16:9.

Everything we do should be done with that aim in life. We must know though that we cannot live to the glory of God unless we have accepted Christ as our Savior, therefore we must be converted before we can glorify him. Phil. 2:11, I Thess. 1:10-12.

Baptism puts us into Christ where we become children and heirs of Christ Gal. 3:26-29. After becoming members of his body there are countless ways in which we can glorify God. Such as self improvement and service to him in worship. By our service to others and in many other ways. Those who glorify God will act as redeemed children of God by being the light of the world, Matt. 5:14-16, the salt of the earth, Matt. 5:13, an epistle of Christ, II Cor. 3:23, kingdom of priests unto God, a royal priesthood.

Rev. 1:6.

So let us try each day of our lives to bring him glory, remembering that whatsoever ye do. do all to the glory of God.

ON TIME... EVERY TIME

J. A. Rushing, Mammoth Spring

There is usually a group who will come in between the first and second songs, another who will come in between the second and third songs, and another who come in even after this. They are nearly always the same ones every Sunday. Nearly every congregation has the same pattern. Why?

Such a tendency has the markings to minimize the value of worship, especially the song service. Is singing an act of worship? Certainly. Of course there may be times when any person is likely to be detained; but, by and large, being late is a matter of habit and is in no sense necessary. If you are one of the 'late comers' you can increase the value of the song service for yourself and for others by correcting this condition.

Perhaps we should note some of the reasons why people "drag in late."

1. Some are late because they do not KNOW HOW TO BE ON TIME. They have never learned how to organize their time so that they are able to keep appointments. Worship is an appointment and God's people are under obligation to keep it promptly.

2. Others are late because they DO NOT HAVE THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD BEING ON TIME. They consider being

late to services a personal privilege, and fail to realize the inconvenience they cause others to suffer. This is especially true when they come wandering down the aisle during a song. Of course we will show respect during a prayer and will wait at the door until the prayer is finished, but we fail to show respect while others are singing praise unto God.

Suppose EVERY MEMBER WERE LATE (and its as much the privilege of all as of one) it would be impossible to conduct the service with order. [I Cor. 14: 40] The late comer nearly always interrupts someone in their worship.

Nearly all congregations would find worship services more delightful and meaningful if the HABITUALLY LATE ARRIVERS would give serious thought to the correcting of this fault.

CHECK YOUR EYE SIGHT!

Bobby D. Hiburn.... Mammoth Spring

In the christian world today, there is an ever spreading disease known as spiritual nearsightedness. It is somewhat similar to physical nearsightedness which Webster defines as, "Seeing distinctly at short distances only." Spiritual nearsightedness is defined in I Pet. 1:9 as "Blind, and cannot see afar off."

A nearsighted christian cannot see the wonderful things which God has created other than this world. He can see his stock, bonds, big business, profits, that his sons are well established in business [often without God] and that his daughters are married into society. We can see that

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Fulton County Gospel News
Mammoth Spring, Ark.

Published Monthly
Free Subscription
Sponsored by:

Welcome Hill Church of Christ
Elders; Hubert Taylor
Lester Martin

Supported by Moten, Pilot and
Welcome Hill churches

Editors; Clovis Ragsdale
Boyd E. Morgan

EDITORIAL

Before another copy of this paper shall have gone to press, a mission meeting will have been held in Viola. Christians of Fulton County should rejoice that the opportunity of presenting the gospel of Christ in the form that it was presented in the first century, can be placed before the people of Viola and vicinity. Many brethren, upon hearing of this work have expressed a desire to have a part in this work. From their attitude it would seem that many Christians have awakened to the fact that they can do mission work. In past years the church in this section has neglected the preaching of the gospel beyond the borders of its own community. The most common excuse given for not doing work of this nature, was that they were not able financially. A few gave small contributions to some of the better known mission efforts that were being put forth in Europe, Africa and some of the larger cities of the United States. We have been kept informed of these works and have rejoiced in the success that has been accomplished in carrying the gospel to those distant lands, even though the part we had in these works was small and we were unable to

see with our own eyes the good that was accomplished.

Now the opportunity has come for a mission effort within driving distance of all Christians in Fulton and surrounding counties. Now we will have opportunity to witness with our own eyes and play a direct part in a work of this nature.

Here is how YOU can help. (1) By your attendance. We expect brethren from all over the county to be in attendance throughout the meeting. To send Bro. Morgan and a song leader out and for others not to attend would invite failure. For many to be in attendance will insure good song service and will encourage people to come who might not otherwise come. Interest will beget interest. (2) We need some help in the material sense, namely some seats. If all the congregations could lend us a pick-up load of seats 4 or 5 to be exact, then this problem can be settled. If anyone knows where we could get a larger number of seats, please contact this paper or Bro. Morgan. (3) All who have friends and relatives in or near Viola, contact them and urge them to go and attend these services. (4) Let's all remember this work in our prayers. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

It is our purpose that during this meeting only the true gospel will be preached, free from the ideas and opinions of men.

We invite bible questions and will endeavor to give bible answers. If anyone wants to speak to Bro. Morgan in private concerning their spiritual problems, it will be arranged if you will let him know.

All that is to be said and done

will be in the spirit of love and meekness. The soul of man and where it will spend eternity is by far the most important thing in the life of every person. The only reason this effort is being put forth is to encourage men and women to prepare themselves for the life hereafter.

.. Clovis Ragsdale

SPEAK THE TRUTH

J. A. Rushing Mammoth Spring

The greatest cruelty to our friends is when we are too gentle to tell them the truth. Many a man has been saved by having some brave Paul or some courageous Nathan look him squarely in the eyes and tell him exactly what is wrong. There are too many preachers who preach after this fashion: "You must repent, as it were, or you must believe, after a fashion, and you must be baptized, if you care to, or you will be condemned to an extent"....

When the Lord says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." No man has the right to extend hope to those who refuse to obey the Lord. We must speak plainly concerning the sin of adding to or taking from the word of God. One cannot hear a falsehood, obey a falsehood, and become a Christian. He must hear the truth, believe the truth, and obey the truth.

It's funny how you can never get too old to learn some new way to be foolish.

As old as she is, 'Dame Gossip' is still able to make the rounds. (Besides she has a telephone now.)

Always speak well of your enemies. Remember, you made them!

WHICH ARE YOU?

Ira G. Woodward

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

Read Rev. 3:16. Are you hot, Lukewarm, or cold in the service of God? The lukewarm cannot please God, The one who does please Him is a good worker, willing to carry his full load and responsibility. Who is at the appointed place of assembly every time, gives as he is prospered, helps other, is active in Bible study, who tries to lead souls to Christ. God is pleased to have him wear the name of his Son.

If you do not care how things are done, or whether they are done at all, you are not as interested as you should be. Too many of us do not do as much as we have talent to do. Most of us could set aside some time for study, make preparation to be at church and on time. We can sing.

Mid-week Bible class is scriptural. II Tim. 2:15. Yet many do not attend these classes.

It is said that on an average, 90% of the members are at services Sunday morning, 45% Sunday night, 22½% at midweek services: Why? do it because we are lukewarm or cold? Beware lest you be spued out. If you are then accept the challenge to do better and do it. Your congregation needs good workers. God will accept you if you keep His commandments. I am afraid of your eternal destiny if you fail. May God help you to be hot in his service.

In John 14:15 we have the striking words of the Lord. "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments." How brief, how forceful a sermon, Do you love God?

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

—in—

Marvin Ed Berry, Welcome Hill

This is a very important question to man and since it deals with the spiritual let us go to our only unquestional guide, "The Bible" First let us just analyze the question. There is something required of man, It is not what "should I", may I, but what "must" I do. It is a necessity of the requirement. Take the word DO in the question. It is not what I must get, feel or think, but "what must I do?" The word DO suggests activity on the part of man in being saved, Salvation is not a matter of passiveness, but of activity. God saves when man obeys the gospel. [Rom. 1:16] You never read of an inspired man telling a sinner that there is nothing for him to do to be saved. Take the word do out of Christianity and you destroy Christianity.

In the Bible we find the question asked four times. The first the rich young man who came to Jesus in [Mk. 10:17], but this was before Christ had purchased the church with His blood and they were living under a different law than we are today so this would not apply to our salvation today. The question is asked three times in Acts. First on the day of Pentecost, the first pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus the day the church was established. Peter preached the first gospel sermon; the people were pricked in their hearts when they found out what they had done and they cried out "brethren what must we do?" Peter replied. "Repent ye, 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 Spirit. [Acts 2:38] The next is when Saul of Tarsus was on the road to Damascus to persecute Christians. He was struck blind by a strong light and was told to go into the city and it would be told him what he must do to be saved. He was told to arise and be baptized. [Acts 22:16] Then again the jailor in [Acts 16:30] when he ask want must I do, they told him to believe.

Now it seems we have three different answers to the same question, but they are not. All these things are required of man to be saved, believe, repent, confess and be baptized is the complete order and to separate them and obey only a part is fatal spiritually.

A CAREFUL MAN I OUGHT TO BE

A careful man I ought to be, a little fellow follows me

I do not dare to go astray, for fear he'll go the self same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes, what're ne sees me do, he tries,

Like me he says he's going to be, That little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine, Believes in every word of mine

The base in me he must not see. That little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go, Through Summer's sun and winter's snow

I'm building for the years to be, That little chap who follows me

-Selected-

WATER

Joddie Pendarvis—Union Hill

So many good people reject baptism as an act of obedience in order to be saved, as they say WATER SALVATION. If you are one of these I beg of you to study a few scriptures with me and lets see if God hasn't used water as a means to bring about his purpose in all ages.

To begin with lets look at the case of Noah and his family recorded in the 6th chapter of Genesis. The early was so full of wickedness that God said [Gen. 6:7] "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth both man and beast and the creeping things and the fowls of the air, for it repenteth me that I have made them." Now how did God destroy them, (with water), and Peter said in regard to the incident, [I Peter 3:2] eight souls were saved by water. Now a question, did the water save them? No God did the saving using water as a means. Now let us turn to Exodus 14 and examine the case of Moses and the children of Israel, where they crossed through the Red sea and the enemy was destroyed by water. Did the water do the saving? No, God saved them but again he used water as the means, and Paul in regard to this incident said in I Cor. 10:1-2. "Brethren I would not, that you should be ignorant how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. Now lets go to II Kings and the 5th chapter and study the case of Naaman the leper. In the 10th verse we see the man of God telling him to go wash seven times in the river Jordan and your flesh shall come again to

thee and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wrath and went away in a rage for verily he thought the prophet would use other means to cleanse him, but his servants finally persuaded him to do as Elisha had instructed, and when he did his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child and he was clean. Again did the water do the cleansing? No, God still doing the cleansing but using water as a means. Now lets go to the New Testament and with one more example and a few remarks I will close. Let's take St. John 9 begin at verse 1 and going through verse 7, here the command was, "go wash in the pool of Siloam." The blind man did and came seeing, (water cure)? no, God did the curing. Man obeying in order to obtain the cure. Now for a brief study of these passages Had Noah refused to build an ark would God have saved him? Or had Moses and the children of Israel refused to cross the Red Sea would God have saved them? And again had Naaman refused to dip in Jordan would God have cleansed him? And yet again, had the blind man refused to wash in the pool of Siloam would God have healed him? The answer to each of these questions is "no, surely not". Will it not still require obedience to God's commands to cleanse us from sins? As we have seen God, has used water at different times to bring about his purpose and that almost from the beginning of creation is it not possible that God would and does use water as a means in the cleansing of our sins, not because the water has any cleansing power but when we obey the commands of God, he does the

cleansing? Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 10:48 Acts 22:16, I Peter 3:21, Gal. 3:26 27.

Many moderns who believe that being good is old-fashioned should be reminded that one of the oldest-fashioned things in the world is sin.

Silence is frequently the smartest thing we can say.

Many rise to the occasion but few know when to sit down.

Jesus is "The Way the Truth and Life" He alone has the abundant life, John 10:10. May we give ourselves to learning more about Him.

THINK THIS OVER!

When I am late. The worship is interrupted until I get seated. I disturb others. I myself am a bit disturbed. I miss a valuable part of the worship, and cannot come into a full appreciation of the remainder of the service, And too, I set a bad example.

WHICH KIND ARE YOU?

A number of Christians are like wheelbarrows, not good unless pushed. Some are like canoes they need to be paddled. Some are like kites if you don't keep a string on them they will fly away. Some are like kittens, they are more contented when petted. Some are like footballs, you can't tell which way they'll bounce. Some are like balloons, full of wind and ready to blow up. Others are lead by the spirit of God. —Selected

NEWS

VIOLA

THE BREVITY OF LIFE AS TAUGHT IN THE SCRIPTURE

Lemuel Martin, Welcome Hill

Bro. Clovis Ragsdale will speak at Union Hill the third Sunday in May on the subject of Church History: An understanding of this subject will help us to realize why the religious world is in the divided condition that it is in today. A cordial invitation is extended to all, regardless of religious beliefs to come and hear this lesson from the pages of history.

The Welcome Hill meeting will begin July 1, and continue for two weeks. Bro. Huey P. Hartsel will do the preaching. He held the meeting here last year and we are eagerly awaiting his return.

Bro. C. H. Cavin preaches for us the first Sunday. Bro. Marvin Ed Berry the second, and Bro. I. A. Woodward the fourth. We have bible study each Wednesday night at 7:30. Welcome to all our services.

Bro. Elmo Hall will begin the meeting at Union Hill June 6. Bro. Hall formerly preached at Mammoth Spring and is now located with the church in Lake City. Services will begin each evening at eight o'clock. This will be our first meeting since the one in which the church was established. Arrange to come out and be with us.

Our lectureship at Mammoth Spring was a blessing to us. Attendance ran as high as 313 for a single service. Two souls were restored to the fold and to the Lord.

Be sure your world is not one in which things happen, but one in which things are done.

Here is presented an opportunity to labor in His cause. We are erecting a large tent in Viola to conduct this meeting. The tent will be put up Saturday May 23. The meeting will begin Sunday night May 24 to continue ten days and possibly longer. Various congregations have promised seats. Please bring these seats to Viola Saturday, May 23. You may pick them up the last night of the meeting if you desire. We desperately need seats. At least one pick up load from each congregation in the county.

Let us impress upon all this is not a work for one congregation only. This is a work for every congregation in the county. As in bible days many united to bring physical relief to the poor saints in Jerusalem, let many unite now to bring spiritual relief to those who hunger after the truth. We have located eighteen who will meet in Viola when a church is established. There will be more. Arrange a load for each night. Bring singers, bring leaders, bring saints; bring sinners. Be there and work while there. Your presence is needed.

A question box will be put up. Ask about the things you are wondering about. We will have a loud speaker to help reach those whose health may demand that they sit in cars, or to help reach the people should our tent not hold the audiences. Literature is being prepared for distribution. Now is the time. May 23 the day to start. Let's be there. In the meantime pray for the meeting.

Kindness is like snow, it makes beautiful anything it covers.

For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: Our day on earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. (1 Cor. 29:15)
Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away. (Ps. 144:4)

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away. (Jas. 4:14)

My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. (Job 7:6)

Now my days are swifter than a post; they flee away, they see no good. (Job 9:25) They are past away as the swift ship's as the eagle that hasteth to the prey. (Job 9:26)

Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days what it is: that I know how frail I am. Behold thou hast made my days as an hand breadth: and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah. Surely every man walketh in vain show; surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in thee. (Ps. 39:4-7)

Hear my prayers, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry: hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength before I go hence, and be no more. (Ps. 39:12-13)

WHICH WAY HAVE YOU CHOSEN?

Marion Farley
Jonesboro, A Kansas

Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jno. 14:6)

Man says, there are many "ways" and that a person has the right to choose the way he or she wishes to be saved.

Jesus said, "I will build my church" Mt. 16:18 "denoting one, and only one

Man says, you may make your own choice teaching there are many ways.

The Bible way of becoming a member of Christ's Church (Acts 2:47). "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Men teach join the church of your choice."

Since we are taught in (Jer. 10; 28). "It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Why are men not willing to take God and his Son at their word, teaching and practicing only those things that can be read from the holy scriptures?

Only in this way can men receive the divine approbation of God, for Jesus saith "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines, the commandments of men."

Paul also taught against such, in [Rom. 16;17 he said "Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." To the Ephesian brethren he wrote, "That ye be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive". Eph. 4:14]. In Titus, he

admonishes, to use this qualification as a standard in selecting elders to rule, lead, and feed the flock, "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and convince the gainsayers" (Tit. 1:9)

This should suffice to prove that all doctrines, as taught by men, are not of divine authority and that some existed even in the days of the Apostles that were strongly condemned.

I am sure Jesus had such in mind when he said. "Every plant my heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up (Matt. 15:13).

God's book divine should be our only rule of faith and practice. The Psalmist said "The law of the Lord is perfect." James speaks of it as the perfect law of liberty."

Just why would men want to change that which is "Perfect"? in effect it is to say, We know more about our needs than God: It would seem some had never read Rev. 22; 18, 19 which warns "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues written in this book, and if any man shall take away from the words, of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things written in this book."

Can you think of any thing with more serious consequences than perverting the word of God?

It has pleased Jehovah to set one way before men, which is "Straight and Narrow" Christ his only Son is the way, allowing him also the honor of being "Head over all things to the Church, which is his body," and to add the saved to the church,

denying them the right or privilege to "Join" as it is so often referred to, knowing that he does all things well" And "His ways are past finding out;" "Why not be SAVED, and return to the Apostolic teachings for our authority in matters of religion?

If it was safe then, it is safe now. Surely any sane man or woman can see the logic in this reasoning.

Check Your Eye... Sight
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his name and character are upheld even though he may mar someone else's character in doing so.

Beyond the world, he cannot see that his soul is lost, and that God has promised eternal salvation unto all who obey him. Heb. 5:9. He cannot see the glories of heaven, the love of Christ, the wrath of God, the terrible nature of the judgement, the sorrows of Hell, or the sacrifices of Divinity; but only the things which he can see or feel.

Since this is a spiritual disease, one cannot get an optometrist to fit his eyes with glasses. This disease can be cured only by the great physician who is able to cure humanity of the greatest of all diseases: sin. The glasses needed to correct this nearsightedness is the word of God, and since Jesus made the sacrifice for us, the cure is ours, and without cost.

The nearsighted christian is lost. Let us check our eyesight!!! Are we nearsighted???

Hidden talent, like hidden gold, availeth nothing. It must be used.

"Why not go out on a limb? Isn't that where the fruit is?"