

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

SEPTEMBER - 1967

## What Must I Do to Become a Christian?

HEAR— "If any man have an ear, let him hear." Rev. 13:9 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom 10:17

BELIEVE — Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6

REPENT — "I tell you, nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Lk. 13:3 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Acts 17:30

CONFESS — "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10:32 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

BE BAPTIZED — "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mk. 16:16 "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

"THEN THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD WERE BAPTIZED: AND THE SAME DAY THERE WERE ADDED UNTO THEM ABOUT THREE THOUSAND SOULS." Acts 2:41

OCTOBER 9-14, 1967  
7:30 p.m.

## Lectureship - Pilot Church of Christ

THEME: The Christian's Responsibility To The Local Congregation:

SUBJECTS AND SPEAKERS:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

To Grow - Bro. Wesley Hilton, Salem, Arkansas

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

To Attend Services - Brother Charles Wilson, Hardy, Arkansas

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

To Be An Example - Bro. Richard England, Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

To Give Liberally - Bro. Paul Watson, Thayer, Missouri

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

To Love One Another - Bro. L. N. Moody, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

To Be Zealous of Good Works - Bro. Carl Clem, Bradford, Arkansas

"Second wind is what some preachers get when they say, 'And now in conclusion.' "

## Jeremiah Versus Any Man of God

"Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay." (Jeremiah 20:9)

Let us briefly make a comparison, so to speak, between Jeremiah and the preacher (Christian) of today. In the verse quoted we know it is the words of Jeremiah, and because of the reproaches, continually helped upon him, by his enemies. He has reached the point of saying in essences "I quit." For it was during this period that Jeremiah went through devastating personal agony. It seemed that he was one against a whole world. He was forbidden to marry (16:16ff). No one would heed his message, particularly the king. Hate was returned for love (18:18ff). He was tempted to quit trying, but could not escape his responsibility. So he reached the point of what we would consider a refusal to do God's will "I will not make mention of Him nor speak anymore in his name."

Does this not bring to remembrance some part of your life? A feeling of one against the world. (Strange what satan can do with that contentious 4 per cent, that

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# Fulton County Gospel News

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**EDITORS:**

**RICHARD ENGLAND  
BILL GRADDY**

seems to always be around.) Still, we must and will react just as Jeremiah did. For as he was a vessel of God, who presented to those who needed Jehovah, a way of escape from their destruction. So are we today vessels through which the power of God, His word, is relayed, that a world (which I believe is headed the same way) can be saved. (Rom. 1:16).

Believing this truth "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth". (Jno. 17:17) "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (Jno. 8:32) Any man of God will be a Jeremiah for "we cannot contain" the sweet story. It will as a boiling, cleansing fire burst forth from our hearts, overflowing with love for our savior. Thus the only reaction left is to shout regardless of the situation at hand "Hear ye Him".

The world, as it has never before, needs an army of Jeremiah's. This area has it's Jeremiah's. Our prayers the world's prayers, could be answered in this decade if they will sound forth now, today, this hour, before it is too late.

From every hospital and asylum, where the victims of vice and sin are reaping what they have sown; from every prison cell, from every place where the received in health, in fortune, in character, and in soul are dragging out the remainder of

their wretched life, from every impenitent's grave, and from the sinner's hell—there comes the solemn adjuration which the apostles so keenly felt "Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel." (I Cor. 9:16).

For the gospel of the savior is a healing balm to the sick at heart, oil and wine to the wounded in spirit, it is the gospel of consolation, of hope and of peace to the sorrowing myriads of mankind.

Felling all this, how can it be otherwise that "the word of the Lord is in our heart as a burning fire," etc.

Now read in this order, Rev. 22:13,14; Jno. 14:15; I Cor. II:1; James 4:17; Gal. 6:14, and conclude with v. 17.

**"From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the MARKS OF THE LORD JESUS."**

How many spiritual "marks" do you bear because you are the Jeremiah (Paul) in the community where you live?

**JOHN A. BALDWIN,  
Church of Christ  
Cabool, Missouri**

## Re - Runs

We may not like re-runs via television, but we must use them in preaching. Each beginning generation must be taught the first principles and older brethren need their minds stirred by way of remembrance. 2 Pet. 3:1. The titles of the outlines may be changed, but re-runs must be used! A sermon should not be preached once if it cannot be preached again. In local work, it is my opinion, and my practice, to preach a series of sermons on first principles at least once a year. Old and young must be taught the basic lessons if they learn, "What mean ye by these stones? One symptom of a shallow Christian is a dislike for repetition. "Sing them over again to me." WHAT? "WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE." The truth must be repeated. Help us O Lord, never to tire of preaching

thy truth over and over! Repetitions is one of the best ways to learn. Memorizing and reciting several passages of scriptures each day will give us our "daily bread."

Of course, preachers should be careful not to OVERLY repeat. Keeping a record of sermons will prevent this. Also, in using re-runs we should re-study the lesson and do our best to add more meat to it. A re-tread tire will give many more miles of service provided it has a good hull. One of the great KEYS to preaching is study. 2 Tim. 2:15.

Great themes like, "What must I do to be saved.", The Lord's Supper," and "Baptism" must be repeated. Since there is only one way to do these things pleasing in the sight of God, help us to learn well how to do them. This will take a life time of daily study. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind," Rom. 12:2. The renewing of our minds is the adjustment of the moral and spiritual vision and thinking to the mind of God according to W. E. Vine in his book, EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS. In order to renew our mind we must preach the Word over and over again.

**BILL GRADDY**

## FOLLOWING ME . . .

A careful man I want to be,  
A little chap follows me;  
I do not dare to go astray.  
For fear he'll go the selfsame way.  
I cannot once escape his eyes,  
Whatever he see me do, he tries  
Like me he says he's going to be.  
The little chap who follows me.  
He thinks I am good and fine,  
Believes every word of mine;  
The base in me he must not see,  
The little chap who follows me.  
I must remember as I go  
Through summer's sun and winter's snow:  
I am building for the years to be  
The little chap who follows me.  
- Author unknown.

## It's Later Than You Think

Everything is farther than it used to be. It is twice as far from my house to the busline now, and they had added a hill that I've just noticed. The busses don't stop for as long either; I've stopped running for them too, for they get faster than they used to.

Seems to me they are making staircases steeper than they used to. The rises are higher or there are more of them or something. Maybe this is because it is so much farther today from the first floor to the second floor, but I've noticed it is getting harder to make two steps at a time anymore; it is about all I can do to make one step at a time.

Have you noticed the small print they are using lately. Newspapers are getting farther and farther away when I hold them, and I have to squint to make out the news. It is ridiculous to suggest that a person of my age needs glasses, but it is the only way I can find out what is going on without someone reading aloud to me; and that's not much help, because everyone seems to speak in such a low voice that I can scarcely hear them.

Times are sure changing. The material in my clothes, I notice, shrinks in certain places. Shoelaces are shorter. They are next to impossible to reach.

People are changing too, for one thing they are younger than they used to be when I was their age. On the other hand, people my age are much older than I am. I realize my generation is approaching "middle age", but there is no reason for my friends to totter into senility.

I ran into a friend the other night and she has changed so much she didn't recognize me. "You've put on a little weight," she said, "It is this modern food," I told her, "It seems to be more fattening."

I got to thinking about her this morning when I was dressing. I looked at my reflection in the mirror. Seems they don't use the

same kind of glass in mirrors anymore. - From the Reminder, 6th and Izzard, Little Rock.

## The Washing Away of Sins

No person who believes the Bible would deny that there is a definite connection between the blood of Christ and our salvation. His blood was shed for the remission of sins. (Matt. 26:28). We were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. (1 Peter 1:18-19). We have redemption through his blood. (Eph. 1:7). The blood of God's Son cleanse us from all sin. (1 John 1:7). There is no remission apart from the shedding of blood. (Heb. 9:22).

Saul of Tarsus was told to "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16). We conclude from this that the sins of an alien sinner was washed away when he is baptized. But someone asks: "Do you really believe that when a person is baptized his sins are washed away?" Certainly, I believe that. Don't you? This passage declares that very fact. Let us read it again: "rise and be baptized when we are baptized Yes, I believe that our sins are washed away when we are baptized. How could anyone believe God's Word and not believe that?

But someone urges this objection: "I just can't believe that water can wash away sins:" Well, I am certainly not contending that sins are washed away by water. This passage, Acts 22:16, does not say that water washes away sins. It merely says that sins are washed away when the person is baptized. It does not say WHAT washes sins away. It merely tells us WHEN sins are washed away . . . when we are baptized. We must go to other passages to find WHAT washes sins away.

Here is another significant statement: "Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood." (Rev. 1:5). Here we have the answer to the question of what washes sins away. Likewise, the

many passages cited at the beginning tell us the same thing. The BLOOD OF CHRIST washes sins away. But while these passages tell us WHAT washes sins away, they do not tell us WHEN sins are washed away. We must come back to Acts 22:16 for that. It teaches that sins are washed away when we are baptized. There is complete harmony between Acts 22:16 and Revelation 1:5. One tells WHEN and the other tells WHAT. The blood of Christ washes sins away when we obey the Lord in the act of baptism.

Naaman was told to wash in the river Jordan in order to be cured of his leprosy. He washed, according to the Divine command, and was cleansed. But he did not praise the water. Instead he praised God. (2 Kings 5). It was not the water that took the leprosy away. It was God. But God had commanded Naaman to wash in water and God would not cleanse Naaman of his leprosy until he obeyed. God commanded us to be baptized for the remission of sins. (Mark 16:16 Acts 2:38). When we are baptized we realize that we are pardoned by the power of God. We know the water did not literally wash our sins away. We do not praise the water. We praise God. It was God who, through the blood of Jesus, washed our sins away. But since God commanded baptism as a means of appropriating the blood, we cannot expect salvation until we have obeyed the command to be baptized.

- Raymond G. Kelcy.

## TO PUT IT BLUNTLY

The preacher met a member on Monday morning. "I haven't seen you in church services for some time," said the preacher. "No. I've lost my religion," said the other. "Well, I surely hope no one finds it," was the preacher's comment as he went his way.

The temple of our purest thoughts is silence.

Pride is to the character, like the attic to the house—the highest part and generally the most empty.

# Christians Must Obey Civil Law

— CLOVIS RAGSDALE

In a time when law and order seem to be under attack from segments of our nation, let us review the responsibility of the christian to the law of the land. One of the basic needs of society is established authority. Man has never been able to live happily without law. The perfect state of man in the garden of Eden was broken by disobedience of the law of God. When the children of Israel would disobey the laws of God, they would be punished for it by being carried off into captivity, or by being oppressed by their own rulers. Heathen nations of the past have risen to great prominence and have fallen when their people lost respect for their government. The Roman empire can be cited as a prime example. Law then is necessary to the happiness and well being of all mankind in every age.

The law of God and civil law are closely tied together. Turn to the thirteenth chapter of Romans and notice the language of Paul: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." Can any one not fail to understand the plain teachings of the apostle. If we resist the law of the land or civil law, then it is as if we resisted God's law. Indeed, the very definition of sin as given by John in I John 3:4 is that it is transgression of law. When we disobey the laws of the land then we commit sin.

Paul elaborates on the need for civil obedience in the same chapter when he states that rulers are for the good of man. When we are obedient we will not be molested. We shall receive praise for being law abiding. Look about us today. The best neighbors and citizens of our land are the ones who do not

break the law. Many of you who will read this do not fear to walk down the streets at night or bother to lock your houses when you leave them. Why? Because we live in neighborhoods where the people obey the civil laws. But this way of life may be coming to a close. Anarchy has broken out in some of our larger cities. People, both black and white, seem to have lost respect for the men who represent law and order. Law officials are criticized for using force to uphold law. Even the courts bend over backwards to favour the accused. Our youth observe this and develop the same attitudes.

Statistics show an alarming increase in crime each year. If this trend continues for another ten years as it has in the last ten, then our nation will be in complete state of lawlessness and anarchy. Perilous times would be upon us. Society could disintegrate and our nation could be overcome.

What can christians do about this grave problem? We can be obedient to the laws of our land. We can teach our children and all we can influence to do so. We can support our government and law officials in every way possible. We can let our voices be heard in support of law and order and decency. It is time to start now, for it is later than we think. The battle against sin and satan is going badly. We are in danger of being overwhelmed. Because we are losing the battle we must now fight much harder.

In verse five of Romans 13, Paul states that we should obey the rulers so that we will not be subject to their wrath and so that we will have a clear conscience toward God. No christian can be true to his calling who will not respect the civil law. The only exceptions would be where the rulers make laws which would contradict the laws of God. This seldom happens, but when it does, we have to obey God rather than men, Acts 5:29.

The fact remains that in our time the law of the land protects the rights of christians and the

government of nation was founded upon the right to worship God as we see fit. It is time for christians to rally to the support of law and order and the form of government that we now enjoy, or we may soon lose it.

## Contributions

### CHURCHES OF CHRIST:

Agnos .....	\$ 5.00
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## A Dutchman Lost His Boy

- JOHN M. ADAMS

He tells his story in the following language: "I hunted all day for my boy. At night I found him sitting in the mud by the canal. He was muddy all over. When I found my boy, he cried and I cried! I hugged my boy and he hugged me. I kissed my boy and he kissed me. I took my boy over to the canal and washed his face, and he was not my boy!" The Dutchman felt good while he thought it was his boy, but his feelings were no evidence that he was right. THE POINT: Many people "feel" like they are saved—who have never done what the Saviour has commanded them to do in order to be saved (See Acts 2:37-38; Mk. 16:16.) Saul of Tarsus (later the great Apostle Paul) lived in all good conscience even when he was persecuting the church that Jesus died for (Acts 23:1). Let us be sure that our good feelings and clear conscience are based upon a knowledge of doing the will of God. When we are sure that we are doing what God want us to do, then we can go on our way rejoicing. (Acts 8:27-39).