

# FULTON COUNTY

# GOSPEL NEWS

BOX 184 MAMMOTH SPRING, ARKANSAS 72554

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## *The "Not So" Apostle*

One of the most striking statements, to me, in Acts is the response of the Apostle Peter to the Lord's directive, "Rise, Peter, Kill and eat," when the Apostle had, in a trance, seen the great sheet let down with all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds. "Not so, Lord!" That was Peter's answer. It is a strange mixture of reverence and rebellion; humility and haughtiness; devotion and yet defiance! A stranger compound it would be hard to find.

When Peter's propensity for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time, however, I guess we shouldn't be too surprised. There was that time when Jesus told his disciples of his impending suffering and death, "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you." There's our "Not so" apostle all right. Another time, at the transfiguration, Peter blurted out that proposal that tabernacle for Moses and Elijah be built as well as one for Christ. Luke charitably adds the explanation, "Not knowing what he said." That's Peter for you. Shortly before his betrayal in the garden. Jesus told his disciples that they would all forsake and leave him. "I will never fall away," remonstrated Peter. When Jesus was washing his disciples' feet and teaching such a powerful lesson on humble service, Peter again blundered. "You shall never wash my feet."

Yet, I do not know of any example in the New Testament that gives me more hope for myself than

that of Peter! In spite of his blunders, God did great things with the "Not so" apostle. Jesus transformed him from a cursing sailor into a great leader. He preached the first gospel sermon at Pentecost, led in the presentation of the gospel to the Gentiles and gave us two of the New Testament epistles.

Undoubtedly one reason why God was able to use Peter so mightily in spite of his tendency to err was his willingness to admit wrong and his subsequent penitence. After he had denied the Lord the third time the cock crowed. Luke says the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Peter remembered Jesus' unheeded warning. The Scripture says that he "Broke down and wept bitterly." Another time Paul condemned Peter for his hypocrisy toward the Gentiles. Evidently Peter admitted the insincerity of his actions and repented.

Many of us may feel that we walk in Peter's shoes much of the time. We are certainly guilty of "Not knowing what we say" occasionally! We find ourselves saying, "Not so, Lord" as we try to mix self-will and submission. But as long as I know what God could do with Simon Peter in spite of his mistakes, there is hope. The important thing is not my blunders and wrongs, but that there beats within my breast the same sensitive heart to those blunders that evidently beat in the breast of the big fisherman.

Johnny Jackson

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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She begged the preacher with this plea,  
"Isn't there a thing that you can do?"  
The preacher tried, failed and said;  
"We're just too far behind,  
I tried to tell you years ago,  
But you would pay no mind."  
And so another soul is lost,  
That once was white as snow.  
Bible Study would have helped -  
But Mary wouldn't go.

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OCTOBER :

CLARENCE A.PRICE	\$1.00
EFFIE FORD	\$5.00
GEORGIA RAGSDALE	\$3.00
ELIZABETH CHURCH OF CHRIST	\$5.00
DELLHALF CHURCH OF CHRIST	\$15.00
HATFIELD CHURCH OF CHRIST	\$5.00
AGNOS CHURCH OF CHRIST	\$5.00
VIOLA CHURCH OF CHRIST	\$5.00
RING CHURCH OF CHRIST	\$5.00

## *Mary Had A Little Boy*

Mary had a little boy,  
his Soul was white as snow.  
He never went to Bible Class  
'Cause Mary wouldn't go.  
He never heard the tales of Christ  
That thrill the childish mind;  
While ~~other~~ children went to class  
This child was left behind.  
And as he grew from babe to youth  
She saw to her dismay!  
A soul that once was snowy white  
Become a dingy grey.  
Realizing that he was lost  
She tried to win him back,  
But now the soul that once was white  
Had turned an ugly black.  
She even started back to church,  
And Bible Study too.

## *News*

Brother Jason Frizzell is preaching at Franklin on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

The Editors of the Fulton County Gospel News invites your comments as to how we might serve you better. Simply write P.O. Box 184, Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554.

All preachers are urged to attend the preachers meeting at the Dinner Bell in Thayer, Missouri. the first Monday night in each month at 6 : 30 p.m.

Brother Freeny Saunders will open a Bible Book Store in Mammoth Spring the first of November.

### THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. You may read about it in the Bible Romans 16 : 16 Matt. 16 : 18
2. It has no creed but Christ, and binds no name on its members except the Divine name. Acts 11 : 26.
3. It speaks where the Bible speaks. 1 Peter 4 : 11.
4. It exhaults Christ as head of the Church. Eph. 1 : 22 - 23.
5. Its founder is Christ. Matt. 16 : 18.
6. It is not a denomination, but simply the body of Christ. Col. 1 : 18.
7. It was established on first penecost after the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Acts 2 : 37 - 47.

# Instrumental Music In Worship

Clovis Ragsdale

The purpose of this article is to study a question that is often asked members of the church of Christ. Why do you not use an instrument in your singing? This is a good question. Inasmuch as we are one of the very few religious bodies who do not use instrumental music, everyone should know why we do not and why we teach that it is wrong to use it.

First, it should be understood that my brethern do not oppose music as such. Many are gifted musicians, as can be noted by their successes in the intertainment world. Pat Boone, the Rhoades family, and others can be cited as examples. Most have and enjoy various means of music in our homes and in recreation. Nor do we oppose its use in worship just to be strange or different.

Simply stated, we oppose the use of the instrument because it was not included in the plan for worship in the church as is given in the new Testament. We have no authority for its use. Jesus Christ stated in Matt. 28 : 18 that all authority both in heaven and on earth, had been given unto him. While on earth he gave no authority for it. After he ascended back to heaven the Holy Spirit made know through the inspired writers his will and the Spirit never authorized its use. The Holy Spirit did say, through Paul, in Col. 3 : 16 and Eph. 5 : 19 for Christians to sing.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Eph. 5 : 19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." A close study of these two verses will show that singing is for the purpose of edification of one another by teach-

ing and admonishing. Close attention to the words of gospel songs will reveal many wonderful truths.

Some songs speak of God's love for man and our need to love him. While others tell of the joys of heaven and encourage all to want to go there. Some songs are written to encourage sinners to become Christians, while others are offered as consolation in loss of loved

ones and in times of trial and tribulation. Many songs are written to pay homage or to express devotion to God and Christ. Notice Paul said we are to sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord, and to make melody in our heart to the Lord. Singing is an outlet for spiritual emotion. It expresses our attitude toward God. It is a form of worship, achieved with our lips and vocal chords as they are directed by our heart. It was not for amusement or to entertain but a way of worshipping God. All Bible scholars agree that the instrument was not used in worship until the seventh century. For about six hundred years, Christians simply sang as Paul instructs in the above verses given. It should be remembered that those in the primitive church were guided by the spirit, directly, before the New Testament was completed. In 2 Tim. 3 : 16,17, Paul said, "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good works." Thus we see that neither Christ, while on earth, nor the Spirit as it guided early day Christians and as it revealed all scripture ever authorized the use of the instrument, that Christians respected the silence of the scripture by not using it for many centuries.

The use of the instrument becomes an addition to the will of God. A man made addition. What did Paul say about adding to the gospel? In Gal. 1 : 8 "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Other passages warn of adding to the word of God. It is like man saying, "God you left out something we think will improve our worship. We like it so we are going to add the instrument." In all of God's dealing with man he has always insisted on man being obedient to his will. He has let it be known that he considers man's wisdom, foolishness. Read 1 Cor. 1 : 18-28.

A good illustration of this is the case of Uzzah who was moving the ark from one location to another. He was not permitted to lay his hand on the ark, yet when he saw the ark about to fall off the cart he put his hand to the ark to stay it and was struck dead. 2 Samuel 6. Surely Uzzah's intentions were good. Why did God Strike him dead? Because he did not follow his instructions to keep hands off. God has always insisted that man obey and do as God instructs. (continued in next issue of FCGN.)

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Love and you shall be greatly loved; forgive and you shall be forgiven; be kind and kindness you shall reap.

## POOR IN SPIRIT

It has been said that the best way to remain poor is to pretend to be rich. We may easily see the wisdom of this in regard to financial matters; it is none the less true in spiritual matters. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." ( Mt. 5 : 3 )

To be "poor" means to be destitute, or without that which is needed. Jesus was not implying that those who were deficient in the things of the spirit was more blessed than those who have received spiritual things. Rather, He is exhaling the spirit of humility which is necessary in order for one to realize that they do have need of spiritual things. The Williams Translation has it, "Blessed are those who feel poor in spiritual things ... "Good-speed translates it, "Blessed are those who feel their spiritual need ..."

The opposite attitude was expressed by the Laodiceans when they said, "I am rich and increased in goods, and have need of nothing ..." (Rev. 3 : 17 ) As long as we are unable ( or unwilling ) to recognize our spiritual needs, we will indeed remain spiritually poor. Thus, the best way to remain poor is to pretend to be rich.

Cliff Stewart

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## *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

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## *Only A Servant*

A surgeon, whom everybody loved, was asked "How does it feel to have the power of life and death in your hands as you operate?"

"I never do feel that way," he replied, and continued : "When I was a young, cocksure surgeon, I was proud of my ability and my record. Then one day I had to make a hair-breadth decision, I wasn't correct!

For some time I wouldn't operate. As I sat, depressed, thinking of my failure, it suddenly came to me, in all humility, that God had given me these hands, had given me these brains-not to be wasted. I prayed to Him then to let me have another chance. I still do. I pray each time I take scalpel in hand. 'Guide my hands O Lord, and give me of thy Knowledge.' You see, He is the surgeon; I am only His servant."

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