

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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## Something To Think About

—Clovis Ragsdale

We notice in the daily newspapers that a professor was dismissed from one major Christian college because of liberal attitudes concerning Bible matters. We are glad to see the men who serve on the Board of Trustees of our Christian schools taking action on those who are edging away from Bible truths and gradually planting their ideas in the mind of the young. Liberalism is one of the first steps to apostasy and unless it is dealt with in its early stages, it can destroy the church. Most of the battles within our own ranks have been fought with the ultra-conservative over methods as to how the church was to carry out its responsibility of teaching and helping the needy. Most of the brotherhood may be ill prepared to meet this new challenge.

Liberalism is hard to pin down. Their ideas seem to be very flexible. They think of the Bible as a book of generalities and that it is not to be taken specifically. The more liberal do not believe in the Virgin birth, the experiences of Jonah, and explain many of the miracles as natural phenomena. They do not seem to realize that if you can disprove some portions of the scriptures, you can disprove all.

Unless our Christian colleges can stop this liberal movement, they will loose the support and confidence of much of the brotherhood, and worse, they will be promoting a possible division of the body of Christ.

The constant dissent of our youth against Law and Order is disturbing to Christians. The Bible plainly teaches Christians to be content and to obey the laws of the land. When Christ was in the world there was social injustice and poverty. He refused to lead the Jews out of their political and social problems, explaining that

his kingdom was not of this world. On another occasion he said that the poor would be with us always. It would seem that man would never be able to settle all the social and economical problems. If he could he would be able to establish something of a "heaven on earth". We fear that many today are more interested in their present physical needs and too little concerned about the eternal. Man only lives for about 70 years. Eternity is endless. Our spiritual needs are what we should be stirred up about, and to try to do something about that which is most important. This is something we should think about.

## I DON'T WANT TO BE A "WATCHDOG"

—Maxie B. Boren

To deny that there is a liberal element in the church today is to be naive. To ignore it is folly. To be unconcerned about it is inexcusable.

Strange as it may seem though, to speak out against it is to be branded by some with undesirable labels. Lately the following terms have been used quite freely to describe brethren who are concerned about liberalism: "self-appointed watchdogs", "witch-hunters", and "keepers of orthodoxy." Such intimidation is designed to silence sentinels who see danger approaching.

Quite frankly, I don't want to be a watchdog. Neither is it my desire to be a witch-hunter. And if a "keeper of orthodoxy" means to be a champion of human traditions then I don't want to be that either. I love my brethren and don't want to stand in judgment of any.

But at the same time, I know where I stand and am not ashamed of it. To the best of my ability, I try to stand foursquare for the truth of God's word. I want to do it as lovingly and as kindly as I know how, and yet uncompromisingly.

Since this is my position, and that of

countless other gospel preachers, may I ask what we are supposed to do when we hear and read things that do not besit sound doctrine? Are we to sit idly by and practice tolerance to the sacrifice of truth?

When we hear so-called gospel preachers quote more from men than from the Bible are we to be unconcerned? When we hear that the church is a denomination and that there are Christians in all churches and that our preaching has been hard, narrow, and legalistic, are we to sit silently? When we hear the church castigated repeatedly are we not to offer any defense? When digressive positions on instrumental music and the Lord's supper are advocated are we to roll over and play dead? When the social gospel begins to take precedence over the gospel of salvation are we to acquiesce? When liberals distinguish between loyalty to Christ and loyalty to His word are we to give assent? When the King James and American Standard translations of the Bible are made fun of while the "Good News For Modern Man" version is extolled are we not to be concerned? When it becomes obvious that some pride themselves in being "unorthodox and far-out" and give every indication of an intent to "restructure" the church are we to forget loyalty to truth and just surrender?

I am reminded of king Ahab when he asked Elijah, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" Elijah answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but thou....in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord." I Kings 18:17-18.

Let me say it plainly—Those of us who are insisting on the importance of adherence to God's word and the preaching thereof without compromise are not troubling the church today—the ones troubling the church are the "strange talking" liberals. I don't want to be a watchdog, but neither can I sit by silently and not warn brethren of the liberal trends and where they will take us.

tian life. He came to teach men to live as children in the presence of the Father and not to be slaves, cringing before a despot. One of the ways "the abundant life" becomes a reality is by seeing the needs, problems and failures of others, not with the eye of selfrighteousness but through the eyes of compassion, love, and sympathy.

#### THE DIVINE EXAMPLE

Jesus loved people. He was always falling into conservation, sometimes in complete disregard of the laws of custom. When his disciples returned to him at the well of Samaria, they were surprised to find him talking with a woman. Society had agreed to ostracize certain classes, but this was not the practice of the Saviour. Jesus came "to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10), and by his activity incurred the sneer of being a "wine-bibber and a glutton". He wanted men to live as neighbors and brothers, and set the example.

The apostle Paul was not one man, but many. He states this when he says, "Unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain them that are under the law: to them that are without law, as without law (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ), that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." (1 Cor. 9:20-22). His ability to understand did not come as a result of gritting his teeth, but by opening his heart to the spirit of Christ.

Spirituality, culture, and wisdom are not weak, but strong because they seek to solve problems rather than make them; "The wisdom that is from above," James says, "is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." (James 3:17). In many instances, envy and strife between brethren come not because of basic differences on principles, but from an exaggerated sense of self-importance and an unwillingness to understand the other's point of view.

#### DIVINE RESULTS

When genuine understanding and sympathy characterize our lives, many beneficial results naturally follow. It will help

in making us fair. The apostle Paul, in stating the position of his opponents, always was objective and factual. He answered clearly and decisively their arguments, without resorting to demagoguery or misrepresentation. Patience is compelled by understanding, because we seek the best in others rather than to glory in love for God and spiritual matters also causes the Christian to have a different attitude toward other men. Feelings of envy, hatred and jealousy which were a part of his previous life are gone. In their place is a feeling of sincere love which causes him to wish for the other person the very same good fortune he desires for himself. In other words, he loves his neighbor as himself. (Matt. 22:39).

Fifth, the person in Christ has new interests to engage his attention and to employ his energies. Worldly interests and material affairs may well be the center of one's life outside of Christ, but in Christ the church and its affairs are to be the center of the new creature's thoughts, words and deeds. If the church is not this important to him, he needs to make it so! For the church is the body of Christ. (Col. 1:18). Therefore the work of the church is the work of Christ. To work in the programs of the church is to serve Christ through the church.

How does one share this new life? How can one be made anew? According to II Corinthians 5:17, being a "new creature" depends on being "in Christ." To be "in Christ" is to be related to him so that he is one's Saviour. This relationship is established in only one way. Paul declared that men are baptized into Christ. "Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ did put on Christ." (Ga. 3:27). Are you numbered among God's new men?

— Rubel Shelly

## Unprepared Teachers

It was time for my class  
and my mind was in shame,  
I was an unprepared teacher  
without an AIM'

Where had the week gone?  
Had my time been a waste?

Had there been no preparing  
or making haste?

My students were ready,  
Their eyes pierced me through  
What could I as their teacher  
tell them to do?

I stammered around trying to bluff,  
But I soon realized  
This wasn't enough.

The class dragged on.  
Would it never end?  
To act prepared was  
hard to pretend.

One child asked a question,  
"Where is the verse found?"  
So embarrassed I fled, I  
could utter no sound.

Finally the class came  
to a close,  
but I found no relief  
as one would suppose.

I only knew that God  
would reprove,  
For a workman must study  
to be found approved.  
Lorretta K. Haas

## News

There will be a gospel meeting at the Camp Church of Christ June 23, 29, 1969. Harvey Elder will be the speaker.

A gospel meeting will begin at the Thayer Church of Christ, Thayer, Missouri June 23rd through the 29. Charles Coil Speaker.

There will be a meeting at Welcome Hill beginning June 16 to run through June 22. John Dale of Mayfield, Kentucky will be the speaker. Services at 8 p.m. each evening.

Next Sunday, or in fact any Sunday, is a good day to begin going to church regularly.

# Some Interesting Facts About The Bible

The Revised Version of the Bible was first published in 1885.

The American Standard edition was published in 1901.

The Bible was divided into chapters by Cardinal Hugo in 1250.

The New Testament was divided into verses by Sir Robert Stephens in 1551.

The whole Bible, divided into chapters and verses, first appeared in 1560 in what is known as the "Geneva Bible." It is also called the "Breeches Bible," because Genesis 3:7 is translated: "They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves breeches."

The Bible is the most translated book in the world. It has been translated into more different languages and dialects than any other book that has been written.

The Bible continues to be the best seller in the world.

The Bible is the best book in the world.

It is the only book that reveals the true origin, mission, and destiny of man.

It is a textbook, on salvation.

There is no conflict between the Bible and the facts of science. There may be many conflicts between the Bible and the theories of so-called scientists, and between the facts of science and the theories of so-called Bible scholars!

Above all things, the Bible should be studied, obeyed, and taught.

A very wise man has said that a knowledge of the Bible with no college education is better than a college education with no knowledge of the Bible.

—Robert Wingfield

WHAT MUST A PERSON DO TO BE FORGIVEN FROM HIS PAST SINS AND BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

1. HE MUST BELIEVE IN CHRIST AS REVEALED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

A. Without faith one can not please God, Heb. 11:6

B. This faith comes by hearing the word of God, Rom. 10:17

C. Faith without works is dead, James 2: 24, 26

D. Faith must work by love, Gal. 5:6

E. Love is keeping God's commandments, 1 John 5:3

F. This faith, which comes by hearing the word of God leads one to work righteousness (Acts 10:34-35), motivated by love in keeping the commands of the Lord which means that one must OBEY Christ to be saved, Heb. 5:8-9

2. HE MUST REPENT OF EVERY SIN, SORRY FOR SIN AND TURN FROM IT

A. Jesus said that one must either repent or perish, Luke 13: 3-5

B. Peter commanded those in Acts 2 to repent, Acts 2:38

C. Paul said that God commanded all men to repent, Acts 17:30

D. Godly sorrow is NOT repentance, but godly sorrow worketh repentance, 2 Cor. 7:10

3. HE MUST CONFESS JESUS WITH THE MOUTH BEFORE MEN

A. Jesus said that if a person would confess him before men, then He would confess such a one before his Father in heaven, Matt. 10:32

B. Jesus also said that if a person would not confess him before men, then He would not confess such a one before his Father in heaven, Matt. 10:33

C. This confession is to be made with the mouth, Romans 10:9-10

D. The Bible example in Acts 8:37, confirms this method of confession.

4. HE MUST BE BURIED IN WATER, OR BAPTIZED

A. Scriptural baptism is a burial, Romans 6:3-4

B. One must go into the water, be baptized, then come up out of the water, Acts 6:36-39

C. Water is the element in which one is to be baptized, Acts 10:47-48

D. It takes much water to baptize a person, John 3:23

5. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS BIBLE BAPTISM?

A. It is for the remission of one's past sins, Acts 2: 38

B. It is to save one, 1 Pet. 3:21

C. It makes one God's child, Gal. 3:26-27

D. It puts one into Christ, Rom 6:3-4

NOTE: If one is God's child then he is an heir of God's blessings and joint heir with Christ, Rom 8:16-17

If a person dies in Christ he will be saved (Rev. 14:13) and the ONLY way to get INTO Christ is through baptism!

All spiritual blessings are in Christ, Eph. 1:3

E. It washes away sins, Acts 22:16

F. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved, Mark 16:15-16

G. Those who were baptized in Acts 2 were added to the Lord's church, Acts 2 :41, 47

H. Jesus commanded baptism, Matt. 28:19-20

I. Peter commanded baptism, Acts 10: 47-48

J. It puts one into the Lord's death. Rom. 6:3-4

NOTE: Christ's blood is what saves the sinner (1 Pet. 1:18-19) and His blood was shed in His death, (John. 19:34) so the ONLY way one can get "into His death" is through baptism.

The Bible teaches the same thing concerning salvation that the apostles taught more than nineteen hundred years ago. Men have written hundreds of creeds that are different from the Bible and millions are following those creeds which Jesus said constitute "VAIN WORSHIP",

Matt. 15:7-9. So as you read this you need to remember, that it is not what you think, or have been taught, BUT WHAT GOD REQUIRES IS WHAT WILL DETERMINE WHERE YOU SPEND ETERNITY, DON'T YOU THINK YOU HAD BETTER CHECK WITH GOD TODAY?

## Putting Yourself In Another's Place

by Carroll B. Ellis

One of the most difficult, demanding, and decisive tests of Christian character is the ability to see "the other fellow's point of view", this does not mean agreement or compromise, but understanding. To many of us, our national anthem is "Me Forever", When our own prejudices and preoccupations are present, morning, noon, and night, it is not surprising life gets to be irritating and tiresome.

Jesus Christ was not uttering, "who-soever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:11) as a statement to be memorized, but the essence of Chris-

Continued



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EDITORS : Clovis Ragsdale and James E. Henley

## I Am Glad She Was

by Bobby Pingaro

I had the meanest mother in the whole world. While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had cereal, eggs or toast. When others had cokes and candy for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich. As you can guess, my supper was different than the other kids' also.

But, at least, I wasn't alone in my sufferings. My sister and two brothers had the same mean mother as I did.

My mother insisted upon knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were on a chain gang. She had to know who our friends were and what we were doing. She insisted if we said we'd be gone an hour or less-not one hour and one minute. I am nearly ashamed to admit it, but she actually struck us. Not once, but each time we had a mind of our own and did as we pleased. That poor belt was used more on seat of our pants than it was used to hold up Daddy's pants. Can you imagine someone actually hitting a child just because he disobeyed? Now you can begin to see how mean she really was.

We had to wear clean clothes and take a bath. The other kids wore their clothes for days. We reached the height of insults because she made clothes herself, just to save money. Why, oh, why, did we have to have a mother who made us feel different from our friends?

IN BED BY NINE

The worst is yet to come; we had to be in bed by nine each night and up at eight

the next morning; we couldn't sleep till noon like our friends. So while they slept-my mother actually had the nerve to break the child-labor law. She made us work. We had to wash dishes, make beds, learn to cook and all sorts of cruel things. I believe she laid awake at night thinking up mean things to do to us.

She always insisted upon our telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, even if it killed us-and it nearly did.

By the time we were teen-agers, she was much wiser, and our life became even more unbearable. None of this tooting the horn of a car for us to come running. She embarrassed us to no end by making our dates and friends come to the door to get us. I spent the night with a girl friend, can you imagine she checked on me to see if I were really there. I never had the chance to elope to Mexico. That is if I'd had a boyfriend to elope with. I forgot to mention while my friends were dating at the mature age of 12 and 13, my old fashioned mother refused to let me date until the age of 15 and 16; Fifteen, that is, if you dated only to go to a school function. And that was, maybe, twice a year.

Through the years, things didn't improve a bit. We could not lie in bed, "sick," like our friends did, and miss school. If our friends had a toe ache, a hang nail or other serious ailment, they could stay home from school. Our marks in school had to be up to par. Our friends report cards had beautiful colors on them, black for passing, red for failing. My mother being as different as she was, would settle for nothing less than ugly black marks.

Using this as a background, I am trying to raise my three children. I stand a little taller and I am filled with pride when my children call me mean.

Because, you see, I thank God, He gave me the meanest mother in all the world.

Submitted by J.G.Savage, Lewisville, Texas.

## Know Your Bible

Can you name?

1. Who was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus?
2. At whose home in Joppa did Peter tarry many days?
3. Who offered to buy the power of giving the Holy Ghost by laying on of hands?

4. In whose house was Jesus when the woman poured precious ointment on his head?

5. Who did Jesus surname Peter?

6. Which one of the apostles was Zelotes?

7. Who was the father of Judas Iscariot?

8. At whose house was Jesus when the woman washed his feet with tears?

9. The names of the brethren of Jesus were James, Joses, Judas and \_\_\_\_\_.

10. To whom was it revealed that he should not see death until he had seen the Lord's Christ?

### ANSWERS

The answers to the "Know Your Bible" Quiz can be found in these scriptures.

Matthew 27:32; Acts 9:43; Acts 8:9,18-19; Matthew 26:6,7; Mark 3:16; Luke 6:15 and Acts 1:13; John 6:71; 13:26; Luke 7:30-40; Matthew 13:55; Luke 2:25,26.

## Contributions For April :

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR APRIL:

A friend from Jeff	\$1.00
Freeny Saunders	1.00
Agnos Church of Christ	5.00
Robert Holland	5.00
Ring Church of Christ	5.00
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