

# FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You" Rom. 16:16

April 1953

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Mammoth Spring, Ark.

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## GRACE

**Elden Coil — Burk's Chapel**  
Do we in "The Church of Christ" believe we are saved by grace? ("For by grace are ye saved thru faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast. Eph. 2:8-9") Certainly we believe we are saved by grace. The Bible says we are. The Bible also declares in Timothy 3:15-16. The Scriptures are able to make us wise unto Salvation, and further states that, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God. Therefore we conclude, "Thru faith in his word" that we must have faith in all scripture, since it is all the inspired word of God. Therefore we believe God when he declares in his word that, we are saved, "by grace thru faith" Eph. 2:8. "By faith," Luke 7:50. "By hope", Rom 8:24. "By repenting" Luke 13:3-5. "By confessing christ" Mat. 10:32. "By baptism" Mk. 16:15-16 / I Pet. 3:21. Can we have faith in part of the above scriptures and not in all? They are the word of God. They must all be accepted.

Rom. 10:17 declares, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Study this passage carefully, it reads that faith is based, or established upon the word of God. In Rom. 10:8 Paul declares it to be, "The word of faith which we preach." The Bible isn't talking about faith in ourselves, or in what we might think or feel would be sufficient for us, it is talking about faith in Gods word, the only faith that is able to save mens souls. Eph. 2:8 Let us turn to one of several warnings, pertaining to "heart felt religion or to man's own opinion in the matter of being saved. Prov. 14:12 says "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. We can plainly see we must put our faith and hope of eternal life firmly upon the word of God.

Let us now turn back to Eph. 2:8 and study the word **grace**, Websters new 20th century dictionary defines it as follows, and I quote, "In a theological sense the free un-merited love and favor of God." Now, lets back to the word of God, **The basis of our faith**, for an expression of Gods love, or **grace**. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Notice that man is here told

to believe. John 3:16.

Now let us ask ourself the question, could we save ourselves apart from ~~God~~ and without his help? To believe this would be to accuse God of stupidity. He says that he gave his son. When we receive something that is given we receive it free without labor. Hence Paul's statement, Rom. 11:6 "and if by grace, then is it no more of works."

But let us not forget that it is **Thru faith** in Gods word, all of it, that we obtain this saving grace. Is it then by faith only? The only time 'faith only' is mentioned in the Bible, is in James 2:24; and there it is declared to be, "and not by faith only" in Jam. 2:17 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead being alone".

I am sorry that space will forbid me saying all I would like to say, or all the Bible teaches on this subject, but before closing I would like to turn to the old testament for an example of the saving grace of God, which thru faith, and by works coupled with this faith, saved the human race from destruction. Turn with me to Genesis 6:8. "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord". Note the warning of the flood in Gen. 6:13. Note the command to build Gen. 6:14. After reading the above scripture, we might ask this question, would grace alone have saved Noah? Certainly not, it took faith. Would faith alone? The answer is no. His faith had to be strong to cause him to work, so as to obey instructions given. He had to build, he had to labor, he had to work.

Acts 2: 24 tells us the gospel is of the grace of God. Rom. 1:16 says the gospel is power unto Salvation. Rev. 14:6 declares it to be an everlasting gospel. Again the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thess. 1:7-8.

Let us conclude by pointing out the following, we have Gods grace offered thru the giving of his only begotten son upon the cross, which was the redeeming price for our sins. This grace will never save us unless we, like Noah, have a working faith.

Then after having done all that God requires of us to do, we will (as Rom. 5:2 states) have obtained access by faith into the saving grace of God.

## A LESSON FROM NICODEMUS

Amos McCord — Mammoth Spring

In the third chapter of St. John we read of Nicodemus' inquiring of our Saviour "How can a man be born again when he is old?"

This remains today one of the most important questions asked by man. Nicodemus knew that Jesus was from God and that man must submit to the requirements of God in order to be saved. Some have said that Nicodemus made his visit at night because he didn't want his friends to know. Others say he came by night because Jesus was very busy. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews. In John 7 we learn the Pharisees and Jews were endeavoring to have Jesus brought before them and were asking their chief priests and rulers if he (Jesus) also had them deceived. This same Nicodemus being of the rulers said, verse 1, "Doth our law judge any man before it hear him and know what he doeth." We also read in John 19:39 that Nicodemus was present when the body of our Lord was taken from the cross and that he brought about a hundred pound weight of a mixture of Myrrh and aloes. The scriptures cause us to believe that Nicodemus was truly concerned about the welfare of his soul.

Note that in John 3:3 Jesus told him "Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God." This question must be given serious consideration if we are to have hope beyond the grave. Nicodemus misunderstood and confused the spiritual birth with a natural birth. Christ further explained in answer to his question of how can a man be born again, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God". John 3:5. Nicodemus understood that a natural birth consisted of one being born from his mother's womb, but needed to know, as many do today, that we are led by the Spirit through the power of God's word John 6:63 into the waters of baptism and from thence are born anew. "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." Heb. 10:22.

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### WELCOME HILL NEWS

Our meeting will begin July 1, and last two weeks. Bro. Huey P. Hartsell will be the minister. Bro. Hartsell held the meeting here last year and we are eager to have him back.

Bro. Chas Cavin preached for us the first Sunday, Bro. Berry the 2nd, Bro. Berry Hunnicutt the 3rd and Bro. Ira Woodward the fourth. We invite anyone who wishes to, to worship with us. Services begin at ten o'clock on Sunday; at 7:30 on Wednesday for bible study. Our singing school as well attended and enjoyed by those attending.

### EDITORIAL

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto heaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened." Mt. 13:33. This paper, dedicated to service of the greatest cause on earth, has as its primary purpose the spreading of Christ's Kingdom on earth.

We have studied conditions in the county for evangelization and find several places worthy of the consideration of every church in the county. Last month Bro. Clovis Ragsdale and I made a trip into the western part of the county to study needs and conditions for evangelization. For a long time many have wondered why a church of Christ has never been established in Viola. This little town is, nevertheless, the third largest in the county and it and two others constitute the only incorporated towns in the county. The others are Salem and Mammoth Spring. Surely these larger centers of population should contain places where christian men and women could worship God in spirit and in truth.

To our joy we found a small group of such worshippers meeting in Flint Springs community church building. There were eleven members, but three had recently moved to Salem. Of the remaining eight, one was not faithful to attend. Of the seven remaining considering the fact some of these sometimes visit other congregations, there is an attendance averaging four and five each Lord's day. The church was established at this place four years ago. Every meeting so far resulted in at least one or more baptisms. Sadly there was no meeting conducted in 1952. This group is 3½ miles east of Viola, and will disband at Flint Springs and meet with the Viola church should one be established. Realizing the need of this small but struggling number Bro. Ragsdale of Moten church and Bro. Woodward of Mammoth Spring church met with them Sunday April 5. Bro. Ragsdale taught the class and Bro. Woodward preached. Bro. McDougal of Mt. Home preaches there on Saturday night before each fourth Sunday.

Above this encouraging factor, we visited Bro. Shrable of the Crossroads congregation west of Viola and located just east of the Baxter-Fulton county line. The Crossroads church is interested in this work and the report was that about ten members meet with them who came from Viola and community. Crossroads is the third largest congregation in the county and those who attend there would not suffer an irreparable loss by this diminishing of their numbers.

Again we learned of seven folks in Viola who are or have been members of Christ's church.

Now where is that man who thought some mission work should be done at home? Here is the opportunity that could not fail, we sincerely believe. Right now a gospel meeting should be conducted in Viola. A tent should be stretched on one of the vacant lots. Arrangements for a good song leader and singing class needs to be made. Adequate seating facilities provided, and brethren from all over the county should attend as interest will beget interest.

The brethren there needs the encouragement of your interest, needless to say they are not real strong in the faith, or the church would already have been established there. They may have been discouraged by the task looking too great, and like water have followed the line of least resistance. Help them **NOW**. After regular assembly of the body is organized there, various neighboring churches should send regular men to help in carrying on the work, that that which is gained be not lost.

Now which of these things can you do? Which are you willing to do? Each of us can assist in this work. Some of you will read this, say that's a fine work and ought to be done, lay the paper down and hope somebody else does it, and never do anything to see it is done. Others will write, tell what they can and will do, that they will attend the meeting, that the church where they meet will provide some singers, books, seats, folks to attend, etc. Some will help with the financial burden of the work. Somebody somewhere will object to it, as it will increase their responsibility. This work needs doing now, **this spring**.

What will you do, now?

—Boyd E. Morgan

### INFLUENCE

George Davis - Union Hill

When we do a thing which later we realize is a mistake, we must repent of it to please God. Though we may be forgiven our mistakes cause unbelievers to doubt our sincerity. We should watch at all times to avoid these sins. Our Christian light needs to shine forth to attract others to Jesus. God is longsuffering and not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. II Peter 3:9.

Each of us influences others, and shall give account of ourselves to God. None of us lives to ourselves or dies unto ourselves. Let us always be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for we know if we labor, our labor is not in vain in the Lord. Let us beware lest Satan should get an advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices. His devices are clever to lead us astray so let us watch and pray. Always be mindful of the admonition of Paul, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ: that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." II Cor. 5:10. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. 6:23.

An old colored preacher said that his favorite verse was there they loafs and fishes.

The devil has a hearty respect for work. He seldom tempts a busy man.

It did not take the Lord long to get people out of Egypt, but it took forty years to get Egypt out of the people. It always pays to think.

The tree will not only lie as it falls, but it will fall as it leans. What is the inclination of your soul?



## TO THE CHILDREN

Once upon a time in the city of David, called Bethlehem, a child was born. A baby as tiny and sweet and delicate as any little baby you see today. This baby was named Jesus, because Gabriel, an angel of the Lord, had been sent to tell Mary, the baby's mother, that this was the name for him. So when Mary and her husband Joseph went to pay their taxes in the city of Bethlehem this baby was born. But he was not so fortunate as most of you young children are today. There was no room for him in the inn so his first little bed was a manger and his little mattress was no doubt the hay put there for animals to eat. But this lowly birthplace did not dull the joy of the baby's father and mother, for they were proud of their child and loved it as your mothers and fathers love you today. And even the angels rejoiced when the baby was born, and the stars shone brighter than ever, but one star in particular was beautiful. It was so bright that the shepherds in the fields ceased watching their flock to follow the star and discover why it was so bright. So they came to the manger where the baby lay, and when they saw it they went everywhere telling the people of the wonderful baby they had seen. Even the wise men from the east traveled far to see and worship the child. But some were jealous of the child and sought to take it's life. But God did not intend that the baby should be harmed so he sent a message to the baby's father telling him where to take the baby to keep it safe. So the baby grew just as children do today, and as he grew he began to teach men the right way to live. He taught them who he was and why he had been sent to earth. He had followers everywhere, but there were still people seeking to take his life. But now Jesus was grown and not afraid of men. He didn't run away like men would today, but he stayed and continued to teach the truth and heal the sick. But at last came the time when Jesus had to die on the cross to save the people of the world from their sins. Still he hated no one for this, and as he was suffering on the cross he prayed to God to "forgive them for they know not what they do". But Jesus rose from the dead, and God received him in Heaven, there to live until the day he shall come again and take with him all the people on earth who have lived according to the Bible and who have believed in God and who have baptized.

Would you like to be one of those Jesus will take with him? You can. When you look at your little brother

or sister lying so sweet in their warm little bed remember that Jesus had no bed to lay in when he was little. Think how it would be if there were someone wanting to kill your tiny baby brother or sister. What would you do? Children, always remember that Jesus was once a child like you, living on the same earth you do. Also remember that Jesus loved the people enough to give his own life to save them. Think of this and love Him even as He loves you. Obey your parents, and go to church every time there is a service. Remember, Jesus wants you to. Think what he did so you could have the opportunity to go to church, then go and thank God for loving you enough to give up his own dear son just to save you.

## NEWS

The church of Christ at Pilot thanks those preachers who spoke during this 'Beginners Lectureship.' Each delivered a timely and worthwhile lesson. Also thanks to the many visitors who helped make our lectureship a success.

The singing school at Welcome Hill was well attended and Bro. Weaver did an excellent job of teaching. Brethren we need more of these schools in the county.

Bro. Harold Jackson spoke at Moten the second Sunday in April.

The meeting that was to be held this month at Burk's Chapel has been changed to a later date we will announce later.

There will be several copies of this paper left at Boler's Shoe Shop in Mammoth Spring for those who might want extra copies.

If you want copies of this paper sent to your friends or any change made in the mailing of your paper write to: Bro. Marvin Ed Berry, Mammoth Spring, Ark. He takes care of all mailing.

Bro. Keener from Harding College preaches each third Sunday at Crossroads. We invite you to visit with us.

The Flint Springs Church of Christ enjoyed splendid services Easter Sunday. Bro. Clovis Ragsdale taught the Bible class and Bro. Ira Woodward preached. One man was restored. There were thirty present. We are looking forward to the day when there will be a church in Viola. The brethren mentioned also visited Crossroads and Mountain Home and both were interested, but who will begin this work? Will you?

A good way to relieve the monotony of any job is to think up ways of improving it.

When you kill time just remember that it has no resurrection.

Three hundred thirty five attended the Bible Forum conducted March 29 at the Church of Christ in Mammoth Spring. The congregation at Thayer, Mo. united in this service with M. S. There were thirty six questions asked and answered by Bro. Boyd Morgan, Bro. Larry Whitehead and the visiting preacher, Bro. Brad Brumley of Rector, Ark. Services lasted from seven to nine-thirty and were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. All were at liberty to ask any question they desired.

Get ready, The big series of Lectures at Mammoth Spring begins April 19. Bro. Morgan will conduct services on Lord's Days. The meeting will continue through April 26. Services each evening at 7:30. Speakers are as follows:

Monday night — Bro. Harlan Hurd of Fisher St. Church of Christ; Jonesboro, Ark.

Tuesday night — Bro. Lowell Blasingame of Pocahontas, Ark.

Wednesday night — Bro. Lonnie Smith of Doniphan, Mo.

Thursday night — Bro. George Darling of Coffeeyville, Kansas.

Friday night — Bro. Joe Blue of Morrilton, Ark.

Saturday night — Bro. O. C. Pickens, Sr. of Main and Oak Sts. Church, Jonesboro, Ark.

Don't miss this. Welcome.

Congratulations to Bro. and Sister Perry T. Vail of Wheeling, Ark., who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary Easter Sunday. Many presents were given them by friends, a basket dinner was spread and many friends both at home and from various places called during the day. Bro. Joe Blue spoke at the church during the morning worship and Bro. Boyd Morgan during the evening service. Several singers visited and both class singing and quartet singing were enjoyed.

## THE NEW BIRTH

### Edward Wood - Welcome Hill

To those who are interested in being born again I suggest a careful study of the following New Testament scriptures.

John	3:1-8
I John	5:1-4
I Peter	1:22-25
I John	2:28-29
Romans	6:3-5
John	6:63
Galations	3:26-27

Let us not pray for a light burden but for a strong back.

Some men become big by doing what they don't want to do when they don't want to do it.

**CHARITY****Clovis Ragsdale**

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. I Cor. 13:1-2. We see from these two verses that charity is to be the greatest characteristic of a christian. Many people today have a distorted idea of the meaning of the word charity. It means to many, providing the necessities of life for someone who is in need of help. The true meaning of the word as it is used in the King James Version of the New Testament means love, a love that suffereth long, that envieth not, and a love that endureth all things. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these in charity. I Cor. 13:13. From this verse we can grasp the greatness of love as love is placed above faith. We realize why, when we consider how useless is faith, if faith is void of love. One cannot be a christian without love. He that loveth not, knoweth not God, for God is love. Some people are born with the tendency to love all whom they come in contact with. They are unselfish in character and think of others before themselves. Many people are not so fortunate and they have to spend a lifetime cultivating and acquiring the tendency to love.

Christians have constantly before them the greatest example of love the world will ever know. No sweeter words are to be found in all the holy scriptures than John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." All that we might do in our entire lifetime becomes pale and insignificant when compared with the great love God has shown for all mankind. There is no greater way of showing love for our fellowman than teaching him how to care for his soul, so that he may someday live with God in that great forevermore. Christians who fail to do this are failing to show the necessary love for God and for their fellowmen. Love is the trademark of a christian. Love is the Church's most effective weapon. It is the most powerful force in the universe. The great love shown by christians of the first century enabled them to carry the gospel to all the then known world. When we obtain the degree of love they possessed (and only then) shall we be able to place the gospel before all people of the earth.

**Moten****L. M. Kersey — Mammoth Spring**

Jesus said, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke 24:47. Verse 49 says, "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

This power came as is recorded in Acts 2 and the apostles went everywhere preaching the word with signs confirming it. To them was given the power to take up serpents, drink deadly poison, lay hands on the sick and cause them to recover.

What is the difference in the way the so called healers of today performed miraculous healing and the way the Apostles healed? The Apostles spoke the word and the afflicted was made whole. Today's so-called healers pray, then pray more, then get up and ask the blind, crippled, and sick if they are healed. Needless to say these afflicted are in the same shape as he was before they prayed. We have often seen this played, and not one case has been produced where they can make proof of power. If we question their power, they usually say, "We can't do anything, it is the Lord working through us. But Jesus told the Apostles, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also: and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." John 14:12. It remains that if the Lord works through them, they ought to do something. In James 2:18 we are told, "Lest, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." Verse 20 says, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

The faith of todays false healers is certainly alone and friends, it is high time we were trying some of these spirits. I John 4:1 tells us to try the spirits, for there are many false spirits gone out in the world.

We have not always had the New Testament. Though under the covenant of grace the Apostles could not quote the New Testament before it was written. How could Phillip have preached to the Eunuch about the conversion of Saul when it had yet happened.

In I Cor. 13:9 we read, "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. In James 1:25 "Who-soever looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be

**HEALING?**

blessed in his deed." When the law of the Lord, properly confirmed was recorded the things in part (given for confirmation); ceased. Prophecies failed, tongues ceased, miraculous knowledge vanished away. Faith, Hope, Charity abides. See I Cor. 13. I wrote this because I have some very dear friends that are being deceived by these false claims of healing.

**"THE PREACHER"****Lemuel Martin — Welcome Hill**

Text: Rom. 10:14

Question 1: By what other terms is known?

"Minister" Eph. 3:7-8 and Tim. 4:2-5.

"Evangelist" 2nd Tim. 4:1-5.

Question 2: What is he to preach?

"Christ" Acts 8:5; 8:35

"Word" 2nd Tim. 4:2

Not himself, "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus Sake."

"Not a Perverted Gospel"

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him, that called you, into the grace of Christ unto another Gospel.

Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you, than that which we have preached unto you. Let him accursed.

As we said before, so say I now again. If any man preach any other Gospel unto you, than that ye have received, let him be accursed. Gal. 1:6-9.

Question 4: Where is he to preach?

"Everywhere" Mark 16:15

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word." Acts 8:4

He must preach:

"Earnestly" 2 Tim. 4:2 In Love Phil. 1:15-16 Fully Rom. 15:19.

"Freely" 2 Cor. 11:7 Sincerely Phil. 1:15-17 Boldly Acts. 9:27.

Question 6:

Why should he preach?

2 Tim. 4:2 "It is a command".

Rom. 10:14, "To let the people hear".

Acts 14:15 To turn people.

1 Cor. 1:21 To save people.

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.

"Seest thou a man hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him.