

Fulton County Gospel News

Good News About Christ And His Church For All Of The World

"...Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Savior of the body." - Ephesians 5:23

Volume 27

Mammoth Spring, AR 72554

July, 1993

No. 7

THE UNBROKEN WORD OF GOD

by Jerry Moffitt

Jesus once said, "The scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). Let's notice further proof of this.

GALATIANS 3:16

"Now to Abraham were the promises spoken, and to his *seed*, not as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ."

Paul is much like Jesus when it comes to arguing. He here argues that the "seed" is not many people but only one individual, the Christ. But in this argument we once again see that in scripture God gives attention to detail. Paul is making the argument based on the number used by a noun, whether it is singular or plural. The argument would not be sound if the Hebrew word was in the form of the plural. We know that Paul had several trials and arguments with the Jews; they were hot and heavy. And if all concerned did not believe in the inerrancy of scripture Paul could not have so argued. But Paul had no fear in basing an argument on the number of a noun. The underlying assumption is that even the number, the tense, the dotting of the "i" and the crossing of the "t" in the original was inspired and even inerrant. The original was **that** inerrant. Scripture is perfectly reliable.

EXPRESSIONS REGARDING SCRIPTURE

Expressions we find in the Bible indicate that the scriptures are inerrant. Notice:

1. At least 73 times in the gospels alone we find such expressions as "It was written." Such an expression means scriptures are finalized and firmly established because they are in the writings of God.

2. Remember scripture calls itself "the oracles of God" (Acts 7:38; Rom. 3:12; Heb. 5:12; 1 Pet. 4:11). Scripture is the utterance of God.

3. Too, many passages are introduced as spoken by the Holy Spirit (Heb. 3:7; 9:8).

4. Many other times we have "God says," or "the Spirit says," or some such (Acts 13:35; Rom. 15:10; Heb. 1:7-10; 3:7).

5. Many times New Testament writers say their words must be obeyed for they are really the word of God (2 Thess. 3:14).

6. *Scripture* is used over 50 times as a technical term for writings of God. See also 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

7. Paul says scriptures are God's message and speech (Gal. 3:8, 22; Rom. 9:17).

8. Next, God is frequently said to be the author (Acts 13:32-35).

9. The whole of scripture is said to be the oracle of God (Rom. 3:2).

10. On occasion we have seen "David in the Spirit" or some such expression. See Matt. 22:43.

11. We find things like "The Holy Spirit spake by Isaiah" (Acts 28:35).

12. Paul says of scripture "today if ye will hear his voice" (Heb. 3:7; 10:15).

13. And constantly Jesus said the scriptures must be fulfilled (Mark 14:27; 14:49; Matt. 25:54-56).

14. Paul claimed his authority to write and to speak came not from men but from the Lord (Gal. 1:1, 11, 15-17; 4:14).

15. Regarding the soundness of the scriptures there is a firm unity between the two covenants, though they are much separated in time, language, and culture.

16. Then, scripture is constantly verified by historical references. Over 30 names of emperors, high priests and Roman governors have been verified. And scripture does not fail us in geographical or cultural accuracy.

17. And, if we had space, we could show how unfair is criticism of the Bible, and much, much more.

CONCLUSION

Much is at stake. But never does scripture let us down. The Bible has proved itself to be inspired, inerrant, and infallible. It deserves the title, "The Word of God," and surely it is **"The book."**

P.O. Box 1275
Portland, TX 78374

"CAN I GET TO HEAVEN WITHOUT GOING TO CHURCH?"

by Marvin Rickett

Many people have posed this question. Others, who have not asked the question, are by their actions, betting their souls that the answer is in the affirmative. By "going to church," we mean attending the services of the church, assembling with the saints, going to the assembly. Will one be finally saved if he does not regularly attend the services of the church?

One must first be **in** the church before his **attending** church will get him to heaven. He must be a part of the church, become a member of the church. The reason this is the case is that all the saved are in the church. The Lord adds all the saved to the church (Acts 2:47). The church is the body of the saved (Ephesians 5:23). One becomes a member of the church when he is saved. One is saved when he believes on Jesus Christ, repents of his sins and is baptized into Jesus Christ for the remission of his sins. (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38).

Now the question: "Can one go to heaven without going to church?"

(1) He can, if one can go to heaven without obeying the Lord's commandments. One of the Lord's commandments is "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). Admittedly, this statement is in the hortatory form, "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (verse 24); and the participle is used in the following clause; yet it has the force of a commandment. In other passages, we are assured that the disobedient will not enter into heaven (II Thessalonians 1:8; John 3:36 ASV). They will, instead, enter the place of eternal destruction.

(2) He can, if one can go to heaven without worshiping God. The main reason we go to church is to worship God. When

(Continued on page 2)

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

... is a monthly publication distributed free of charge to any who care to receive it. We will be happy to add any names to the regular mailing list. If you send in a name be SURE to include the ZIP CODE. It must be with each address according to the Postal regulations. This paper is supported by unsolicited contributions for which we are grateful. If you care to know the financial status and expenses, that information will be furnished upon request. Mail all address corrections to:

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

P. O. Box 251

Mammoth Spring, AR 72554

Ted J. Clarke EDITOR

Publication No. 211780

(Continued from page 1)

one forsakes the assembling, he is, in reality, forsaking the worship of God. Granted, one may perform some worship to God in private devotionals, but if the truth were known, those who forsake the assembly worship probably do not spend much time in private devotionals, either. Besides, the Lord nowhere granted us authority to substitute private devotionals for assembly worship. We are to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

(3) He can, if one can go to heaven without having fellowship with the brethren. One of the purposes of, and a great value of, going to church is to have fellowship with others of like-precious faith. When one forsakes the assembling, he misses this valuable and essential exercise. The Lord wants us to have fellowship one with another (Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:7).

(4) He can, if one can go to heaven without following the example of the New Testament church. One of the ways to ascertain Bible authority for what we are to do is by example. The example of the New Testament church, which was approved by the Lord, was that "Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them" (Acts 20:7). If we want the approval of God, we will follow the approved examples of the New Testament church.

(5) We can, if one can go to heaven without accepting the implication of New Testament teaching. Another of the ways to ascertain Bible authority

for what we are to do is by the Bible's implications. Paul instructed the Corinthian brethren that when they ate the Lord's supper they were to "tarry one for another" (1 Corinthians 11:33). The only way they could tarry one for another is if they were in assembly together. The only way an individual could honor this directive is if he went to church and was a part of that assembled group.

Often the question is asked, "Do I have to go to church?" Instead of answering yes or no, perhaps we ought to counter it with another question: "Do you want to go to heaven?"

P. O. Box 159
Bay, AR 72411**GOOD ADVICE FOR
DOING GOD'S WORK**

by Neal Pollard

At the end of his glorious reign, King David, in transferring power to his son, charged Solomon to follow the divine pattern for the construction of the temple and the conduct of the services. From verses fourteen through eighteen, we discover how minute the divine specifications are. Considering the **exactness** with which God left His pattern, we learn that man is not at liberty to generalize where God specifies. So, the pattern for living under the New Covenant is **exact** (cf. Revelation 22:17, 18; Galatians 1:6-9). In 1 Chronicles 28:20, David gives Solomon an admonition which, in principle, God gives the Christian today. Observe each part of the admonition.

I. "BE STRONG." To fulfill the statutes and ordinances which the Lord first instituted with Moses (cf. 1 Chronicles 22:13), Solomon needed strength. He needed great moral and spiritual strength to lead all Israel in observing the law without swerving. From this, the Christian learns of his need for strength. In Romans 4:20, Paul told Christians to possess a strong faith like Abraham had. Paul confidently wrote to the church at Philippi, "I can do all things through Christ who **strengthens me**" (Philippians 4:13). Christians learn that they grow strong through testing (1 Peter 5:10). To be successful spiritually, we have got to be strong.

II. "BE COURAGEOUS." Solomon was exhorted to possess courage, even

when dealing with his brethren. David knew that Solomon would need moral bravery to combat man's struggle with himself. For Solomon to satisfy the divine pattern, he needed the brand of courage characteristic of Daniel (Daniel 6:10ff), Elijah (1 Kings 18), Joshua (Joshua 1:6,7), and Jeremiah (Jeremiah 37-39). For the Christian, it takes courage to stand up for his convictions. It takes courage to say no to self and to sin. It takes courage to approach and teach the lost. It takes courage to teach God's word on unpopular subjects like modesty, abstinence, dancing, social drinking, and the like.

III. "DO." The success of the plan outlined in 1 Chronicles 28 rested on Solomon's putting it to work. Dreaming, planning, and praying are all necessary, but such ambitions are useless until we roll up our sleeves. Our salvation depends on more than faith alone (Matthew 7:21) and lip service (Matthew 15:8). When we stand before our Lord, his pronouncement will be "well-done" and not "well-said." So, the Christian must be characterized by action verbs like **labor** (Matthew 9:37, 38), **pray** (1 Thessalonians 5:17), **teach** (Mark 16:15), and **preach** (2 Timothy 4:2).

IV "FEAR NOT." So David told Solomon. This phrase, "fear not," appears 85 times in the Bible. We find the word **fear** at least once in 36 of the 39 Old Testament books and 19 of the 27 New Testament books. The Bible teaches emphatically that we are to fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13; Hebrews 12:28). We are to fear the justice of God if we are lost (cf. Matthew 10:28). We are to fear the ravages of sin (cf. Revelation 18:10, 15). When the phrase, "**fear not**" appears in the Bible, almost without exception it refers to removing **irrational** fears. That is, we should not fear, 1) evil (Psalm 23:4); 2) the absence of material blessings (Luke 12:31-33); 3) opposition (cf. 1 Corinthians 16:10); 4) what man might do to us (Hebrews 13:6); or 5) trials and persecutions (Revelation 2:10). The prevailing principle of 1 John 4:18 is that mature love casts out dread of punishment as motivation to obey God. Rather, we obey God out of a desire to please Him.

V. "BE NOT DISMAYED." Building the temple took time, effort, and commitment. Building the church involves the same factors.

1. "Be not dismayed" if the growth of the church is slow. Building takes time.

2. "Be not dismayed" when the work of the church becomes difficult and grueling (stemming denominational influence, conquering the prejudices of prospects, repeated visits to waywards, recruiting personal workers from the ranks of the universal priesthood). Building takes effort.

3. "Be not dismayed" because the demands of Christianity ask for your attention, presence, and influence above everything else (Matthew 6:33). Building takes commitment.

Because, in God's omniscience, He knew we might easily become discouraged, we find encouragement in the scriptures (not only in popular verses like John 14:2-4 and Matthew 11:28-30, but also obscure passages like Joshua 10:25 and Jeremiah 1:17).

VI. "HE WILL NOT FAIL NOR FORSAKE YOU." It was not necessary, but was reassuring for David to tell Solomon that God would be with him. By His very nature, God is trustworthy! The God who cannot lie said, "I will not forsake you, nor leave you." Jesus told the apostles and all subsequent disciples, "Lo, I am with you always..." (Matthew 28:20). David had exclaimed in the Psalms, "Thou art with me..." Concerning the work of the Lord, God is for us if we are therein involved. And, if God is for us, who can be against us?

For Solomon, all the encouragement of David hung on the last phrase of 1 Chronicles 28:20. To know that God was with him from start to finish gave him heart to undertake his task. Solomon thrived on David's words, "until thou has finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord... **BE STRONG, BE COURAGEOUS, BE ACTIVE, BE FEARLESS, BE ENCOURAGED, AND BE INFORMED OF GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE!!!**"

For Christians, all the encouragement of the scriptures hangs on a promise that if we are all those things, He will always be with us and will bless us with a crown of life at the crossing of time! No task is too great for God and the Christian. Great things are accomplished for the body of Christ when Christians follow the principles found in the formula of 1 Chronicles 28:20.

P.O. Box 15
Livingston, AL 35470

THE SECRET OF BEING POPULAR

Do you want other people to like you? Would you be overjoyed if you could find a magic formula that would insure your popularity among all your friends?

Perhaps there is no such magic formula. But if you'd like a hint as to something pretty close to it, you'll find it in these two words: Be considerate.

Thoughtlessness probably causes more sorrow and trouble than anything else in the world. It wrecks many friendships every day. It makes people resentful, angry and unhappy.

And thoughtlessness is simply not being considerate of others. Some of us are so bound up in ourselves that we don't have time to bother about anyone else's welfare. As a result, we wound their feelings, and soon we find ourselves dislike.

The Golden Rule has been a matchless standard of conduct for many hundreds of years. It's still worth following, and in it you may find that secret of being popular.

A WORM IN AN APPLE

How does a worm get inside an apple? Perhaps you think the worm burrows in from the outside. No, scientists have discovered that the worm comes from the inside. But, how does it get in there? Simple. An insect lays an egg in the apple blossom. Sometime later the worm hatches in the heart of the apple, then eats its way out.

Sin, like the worm, begins in the heart and works out through the person's thoughts, words and actions. For this reason David once wrote, "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

- Copied.

CONTRIBUTIONS

CHURCHES

Church of Christ, Moko, Ar.	\$25.00
Welcome Hill Church of Christ	10.00
Mammoth Spring, Ar.	
Church of Christ, Elizabeth, Ar.	15.00
Pilot Church of Christ	40.00
Mammoth Spring, Ar.	
Jeff Church of Christ, Thayer, Mo.	25.00
Church of Christ, Moody, Mo.	25.00
Viola Church of Christ, Viola, Ar.	10.00
Church of Christ, Agnos, Ar.	40.00
Clarkridge Church of Christ	50.00
Clarkridge, Ar.	
Church of Christ, Garfield, Ar.	35.00
Dellhalf Church of Christ, Myrtle, Mo.	20.00

INDIVIDUALS

Victor Wohlford, N. Little Rock, Ar.	\$10.00
Gladys Creswell, Little Rock, Ar.	10.00
M/M Pete Phillips, Franklin, Ar.	10.00
M/M Isaiah Anthony, Little Rock, Ar.	25.00

"REMEMBER JESUS"

by Shan Jackson

These are the words of an aged missionary addressed to his young son in the faith (2 Tim. 2:8). The apostle Paul, that hero of all ages, after fighting a good fight, finishing his course, and keeping the faith, is now found chained in a Roman prison. At this time persecution against Christians is at its height and he now pens these farewell thoughts to young Timothy, who had been left in charge of the work in Ephesus. With this backdrop Paul urges him to "suffer hardship as a good soldier" of the Master. He encourages him to surrender himself completely and faithfully to his sacred call. Then as a motive to strengthen this young minister to face this mighty task he says, "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David, according to my gospel."

Let us consider first of all, and through it all, that we are to remember Jesus as the Christ of both the Old and New Testaments. Perhaps few passages better illustrate the unity ascribed in both. The unchanging gospel of the whole, the one Christ of sacred script. It has been well said that the "New Testament is the Old concealed, and the Old Testament is the New revealed." Timothy, from his youth was confined to the Old. However, the message he heard from the Old Testament was the promise of a risen Savior. This was the message he heard from his beloved tutor, the apostle Paul, and the message entrusted to him for the proclamation to the masses.

Remember Jesus, not only as a victorious Master, but also as Sovereign, "Risen from the dead, of the seed of David." Following the victory comes the sovereignty. Following the resurrection Jesus was elevated to a position of permanent regal power. We remember Jesus as Sovereign, not only because of his rising again, which was the first step in his exaltation, but also because of his royal descent from the house of David. Both his triumphant resurrection and God's oath-bound covenant with David proclaim him as the rightful Sovereign of men. Prophets, angels, and apostles join in acclaiming him Lord of all lords and King of all kings. "His kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom." (Dan. 4:3)

P.O. Box 904
Palacios, TX 77465

A temper displayed in public is indecent exposure.

THE EFFECT OF T.V. VIOLENCE

by Max Patterson

For some months now there has been a growing and lively discussion of the effect of violence viewed on the screen, both on T.V. and in the movies, particularly on the young generation.

Below are listed some of the charges usually leveled against so much violence on T.V.

1. It dulls the sensibilities of many persons to violence.
2. It breeds indifference, and an acceptance of violence.
3. It creates a fear of something bad happening to the individual.
4. It desensitizes real-life acts of horror.
5. It encourages aggressive behavior, particularly in children.
6. Some are calling it, "in political terms, a national scandal."
7. It contributes to unruliness, hostility, and fighting.
8. There is a tendency to try to re-enact some antisocial acts depicted on the screen. Although most persons are normally well adjusted, and other influences offset the effect of the violence, there are still a few in this category.

The AMA has said in a recent resolution, "T.V. violence is a risk factor threatening the health and welfare of young Americans, indeed our future society." The AMA statement further indicated that violent programs are "an important contributing factor to the 'culture of violence'." Many doctors, psychiatrists, and scientists agree with the views expressed above and are calling for action from the T.V. networks.

There is a definite relation of this discussion to Scripture. When the man of old said "keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life," he was showing an acute awareness of the importance of guarding the heart, and keeping out of it those things that would defile it. (cf. Prov. 6:18; Matt. 12:34; 15:19) "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he," Prov. 23:7. Love "thinketh no evil," 1 Cor. 13:5. There are many principles and statements of Scripture that would indicate to the Christian that he ought to watch what goes in his mind and heart. I believe all Christians ought to rally behind any and all efforts to clean up the sad condition of T.V.

902 Lariat Dr.
Neosho, MO 64850

CALLED TO BE SAINTS

by B. J. Clarke

We have been called to be saints. Paul addressed his Roman epistle "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, CALLED TO BE SAINTS..." (Rom. 1:7). His first writing to the Corinthians employs almost identical terminology: "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, CALLED TO BE SAINTS..." (1 Cor. 1:2).

Saints are not perfect, sinless creatures who have attained a spirituality that is almost divine. If that were the case we would have some trouble harmonizing Paul's reference to the Corinthians as saints in chapter one with his inspired indictment of their carnality in chapter three. What does it mean to be a saint? This question can best be answered by understanding what it means to be sanctified. After all, saints are those who have been sanctified.

The word sanctified simply means "set apart for a holy service." W. E. Vine says that sanctification is used in the New Testament to refer to the separation of the believer from evil things and evil ways. Those who are sanctified are those who turn away from such things as dishonor God and His gospel (2 Tim. 2:21). Those who are sanctified are those who have come out from wickedness and uncleanness of the world to be separate and holy (2 Cor. 6:17-7:1). Holiness is a status we have been commanded to attain (1 Peter 1:15, 16). "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" (ASV translates holiness as "sanctification"). 1 Thess. 1:22; 1 Jn. 3:6, 9). If any man would see the Lord he must follow after holiness or sanctification (Heb. 12:14). A sanctified life is a consecrated life for God.

God's children are commonly referred to in the New Testament as saints, i.e., "sanctified" or "holy ones." The word is used 62 times in the New Testament. Saints are those who have been set apart by the Lord through the agency of the water and the word (Eph. 5:26; Jn. 3:3-5). Saints are those who have been set apart by the truth of God's word and their obedience to that truth (Jn. 17:17). Saints are Christians and Christians are saints. So be careful when you tell people that you're not a saint. You are denying your Christianity at the same time. We have been called to be saints. Let us ever strive to walk worthy of the calling wherewith we've been called (Eph. 4:1).

8265 Chesterfield Drive
Southaven, MS 38671

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. After the above five steps, faithful Christian Living (1 Peter 2:11, 12; Revelation 2:10).

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. The Bible is its only guide (Romans 1:16; 1 Thess. 2:13).
2. Wears a Biblical Name (Romans 16:16).
3. Established at the right place (Isaiah 2:2,3; Acts 2).
4. Established at the right time (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).
5. Established on the right person (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36).
6. Saved are in it (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
7. Its members are enrolled in heaven (Hebrews 12:23).
8. Membership in it is obtained by obedience to God's commands including baptism (Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 12:13).

"YOU CAN HELP WITH POSTAGE"
MOVING?
Be sure to send us
your change of address



POSTMASTER
Mail all address changes to:
CHURCH OF CHRIST
P.O. BOX 251
MAMMOTH SPRING, AR, 72554

Second Class Postage
Paid At
Mammoth Spring, AR
72554
Publication # 211780