

EULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST

Lowell Blasingame

The difference in the work of the prophet and the priest is this. The prophet is the person that spoke to the people for God. The priest is that one that speaks to God for the people. In Jesus Christ the office of prophet and priest is combined. He is the one through whom God speaks to us, Heb. 1:1-2, and also through whom we approach the throne of God. I Tim. 2:5. Paul says that there is one mediator between man and God and that the man Christ Jesus. This shows that one can not appeal to God through Mary, the mother of Jesus, or any other person other than the Christ.

Christ did not serve as priest while he was on the earth. Priests of the law were chosen from the tribe of Levi but Christ came from the tribe of Judah of which nothing had been said concerning priesthood. Heb. 7:14. Furthermore, there were already those on the earth to offer gifts according to the law. Heb. 8:4. No Levite filled his office before him for he was made a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. Heb. 7:13-17.

Christ serves as priest over his house. Heb. 10:21. We, God's children, are said to be his house. Heb. 3:6. The house of God is further identified as the church. I Tim. 3:15. Since Christ serves as priest over his house and his house is the church, it then follows that one cannot have the benefits of the priesthood of Christ apart from the church over which he serves as priest. If one can't be saved without the priesthood of Christ then he can't be saved outside the church for Christ is priest over his house and his house is the church.

WHAT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP MEANS

Marvin Ed Berry — Welcome Hill
Many have a poor conception and some have virtually no conception of what church membership means.

It is always wise to count the cost. In Luke 14 starting with the 25th verse, Christ said: "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters yea, and his own also he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

Yes, it is always good to count the cost but cost should not keep us from obeying and working.

As Jesus says we should put him first in our hearts. Hate in the Bible means love less. It is not that we should hate others as we think of hate, but that we should love Christ the most.

Church membership means to be a member of the body of which Christ is head. Col. 1:18 and Eph. 1:22.

It means to be a worker in the Lord's vineyard. Phil. 2:12 and Rom. 7:4.

It means to live a different life. A new life. Rom. 6:4. Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

It means to be a servant of righteousness. Rom. 17:18. "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

It means we are called to be Saints. I Cor. 1:2 "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus,

called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours."

It means the enjoyment of all spiritual blessings. These are:

Salvation from past sins. Acts 2:47. "Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

To be children of God. Gal. 3:26-27. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Can address God as "Our Father." I Peter 3:12. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but his face is against them that do evil."

Provision of needful things. Mat. 6:33. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Church membership means fellowship with saints. Rom. 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another."

It means hope of eternal life. Gal. 3:29. "And if ye be Christ's then ye are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Titus 3:7 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."

If you are not a member of the Church, I hope by this message from God's work you see how important it is and obey while you have the chance.

Two brethren went coon hunting. While walking along one said, "Say, I forgot all about Bible study tonight." The other said, "Well, I couldn't have gone anyway. My wife is sick."

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Boyd E. Morgan

EDITORIAL

It is the aim of those concerned with this paper to make it worthwhile. The response of those who receive it assure us of its worthiness, repeatedly. We are thankful of the increased support given us that we may continue to publish on the desired basis of free subscription. Our purpose is to supply it to anyone who desires it and will receive it graciously. Our hope is to win souls to Christ and enrich Christian living, and all to the Glory of our Lord and Saviour and the Almighty God.

In order that those who may be skeptical of the value of this effort, we are publishing just a few of the letters received since last issue. You can see why we are encouraged with such responses:

Mrs. Ruth Wood, 910½ E. Market, Searcy, Ark. — "Bro. Morgan, I am sending \$1 to help a little on the Gospel News. I like the news and am happy to know you are doing the work in that section you are. Churches are being started in places where people didn't know what the Bible taught. I am an aunt of Hubert Taylor of Welcome Hill Church, am 81 years old. Can't do much anymore. A Sister in Christ."

Mrs. Russell Langston, Morriston,

Ark. — "I receive the paper and enjoy it very much."

Gordon Irby, 948 Vassar St., Wenatchee, Wash. — "Would you please enter my name on your subscription list? I have read a couple of your papers and like it very much."

John R. Jones, Rt. 1, Walnut Ridge, Ark. — "Dear Mr. Morgan. Mr. Frank Moody gave me one of your papers and I liked it very much and I am sending two addresses. I wish you would send the paper to them. I knew your buddie (reference to Bro. Clovis Ragdale, B. E. M.) from the time he was born till about four years old and I knew his father and mother and I was glad when I heard he was a gospel preacher."

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Stephens, Elizabeth, Ark. — "We are sending a small contribution to be used in helping to publish the Gospel News. We enjoy the paper very much and believe it is doing much good."

Those four letters are just a few we receive. I wish it were possible to share all with all our readers. It is easy to see how they are encouraging to us. These are printed to show you how this work is appreciated and not for solicitation of funds. Contributions are appreciated, surely, and help us publish more material and enlarge our mailing list, but in no wise are we desirous of leading anyone to believe that a contribution is necessary to receive Fulton County Gospel News. It is free to all regardless of faith and even if of no faith at all. Thus, far we have not found it necessary to turn down a single request and thank God for His blessings that is upon us.

—Boyd E. Morgan

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

It's Monday morning or any other morning in the work week. The alarm rings, the family is aroused and every one goes about his routine, preparing for the day. Someone shouts: "What time is it?" Upon being told, there is the usual grumble: "Why don't we get up earlier?" or "I can't afford to be late because the boss always grumbles and things at the office go wrong all day" or "I'll have

to really get a move on or else be late for school." Daddy says: "I don't have time for any breakfast, just a cup of coffee please". All corners are cut, sometimes the beds are even left unmade and the breakfast dishes are stacked in the sink. They rush and barely make it.

The scene changes. It is Sunday morning at the same house. The alarm rings. A hand is extended from under the cover and shuts it off. The family catches a few extra winks. After a while a brave soul sneaks out and gets the Sunday paper. Soon others begin to stir and one wants the sports page and another asks for the funnies. Breakfast is eaten leisurely. "Will you look at what time it is," gasped someone. "O, Well, I guess we won't make it to Bible classes. It's already nine o'clock and we don't have a bed made or a dish washed and we haven't even started dinner." Eleven o'clock comes and the family is seen entering the church building—just in time to hear the preacher take his text. Just as they got out of the car dad said: "We'll be a few minutes late but I always said 'better late than never.'"

That week the family takes in a ball game or goes to the circus and they are in their seats watching what is going on thirty minutes ahead of time. There is a BIG difference, isn't there? What do you think makes that much difference?

—Taken from the Seminole, Okla. Bulletin

Too many times a reprimand is just a grouch in disguise. Avoid this:

Being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you. 1 Pet. 3:15.

Whoever heard of the man who quit going to the movies because the folks there wouldn't speak to him, or who preferred to drown rather than get in the boat with a hypocrite?

WALKING WITH GOD

Gen. 5:24

Marion Farley — Dallas 17, Texas

We learn in Psa. 1:1 that there are forbidden ways, "Blessed is the man that walketh NOT in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." It has ever been man's desire to do that which God forbade. God has always made it possible for him to "do good and live" with Him, or to do evil and "die" (be separated from Him).

The way of those who transgress is said to be hard; Pro. 13:15. "Good understanding giveth favor, but the way of transgressors is hard." Surely a man would not choose a way, knowing it was rugged and hard, yet this is his lot when he makes the wrong choice. Solomon compares him to a foolish man in Pro. 12:15. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."

You will note in each of the passages above that the wise or favorable course is mentioned—God has not left it up to men to "Do that which is right in his own eyes," since he has never been capable of "directing his own steps". Pro. 16:9. "The Lord directeth his steps."

For this very reason, denomination-ism (division) is strongly condemned in I Cor. 3:3 "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal and walk as men?"

These things had already sprung up in the Corinthian church and were beginning to weaken this once strong church where Paul had labored so tirelessly, and under great difficulties for a year and a half establishing and grounding it in the faith. It is no small wonder at his alarm over the situation existing at the writing of this epistle to them.

In the first chapter and verse 10, he besought them to correct their divided state, and be "perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment." This church started out in a very fine way and would have continued to grow and prosper, had it not been for following men's ideas, instead of God's

directions. But let us consider just what it means to be found "walking with God." Paul states in 2 Cor. 5:7 referring to Christians, "We walk by faith, not by sight." Every step we take toward heaven is solely by faith. We cannot see why God has commanded to do certain things in certain ways, but if we could, it wouldn't be by FAITH, and it wouldn't please God, for his way is the way of FAITH.

To walk with God, we must also walk in his commandments, as did Zacharias and Elizabeth, the father and mother of John the Baptist. Lk. 1:6. "And they were both righteous before God, walking in ALL the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." No finer tribute could be paid to human beings than this. It means also that we must begin a new life. Paul so beautifully pictures the changed man in these words, "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17 and in Rom. 6:3 he tells us HOW and WHEN this takes place, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death?" We are taught in Rom. 8:1 that those who are in Christ no longer walk as before. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." In other words, are no longer in the "Broad way that leadeth to destruction", but have found and are walking in "The narrow way that leadeth unto life." Matt. 7:13-14.

Noah is one of the greatest examples of those who "walked with God" and God saved him. He had implicit faith in Jehovah's promise; namely, that He would save him from the flood of waters that was to destroy civilization from the face of the earth, and by his complete and submissive obedience his life and those of his immediate family were spared. Being so outstanding in these traits, his name is among those Patriarchs of FAITH mentioned in Heb. 11.

Lastly, Enoch "Walked with God, and he was not, for God took him". Gen. 5:24. For three hundred years,

it is said he WALKED WITH GOD, which implies he zealously followed Jehovah day after day, year after year, until he was taken from this earth to enjoy the ceaseless ages of a never ending eternity with the God he loved and served.

DEATH NOTICE!

Mrs. Prayer Meeting died recently at the First Neglected Church on Worldly Avenue. Born many years ago in the midst of great revivals, she was strong, healthy child, fed largely on Scriptural Holiness, soon growing into world wide prominence, was one of the most influential members of the Worship family.

For the past several years Sister Prayer Meeting has been in failing health, gradually wasting away until rendered helpless by stiffness of knees, coldness of heart, inactivity and weakness of purpose and will.

A post mortem showed that a deficiency of Spiritual Food coupled with a lack of Lasting Faith and Pure Religion were of contributing causes. Only a few were present at her death, sobbing over memories of her past beauty and power. Carefully selected pall bearers were urged to bear tenderly her remains away. But the pall bearers failed to appear! There were no flowers. Her hymns, "Amazing Grace" and "Rock of Ages" were not sung. Miss Ima Modern rendered "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere," but none seemed to have any idea where the fancied isle might be. She rests in the beautiful cemetery of By-Gone Glories, awaiting the summons from on high.

—Selected

Beloved, let's not allow this "notice" to be applied to our congregations. Instead of singing a requiem or dirge over our prayer meeting, let us sing "REVIVE US AGAIN" and be revived. I beseech you to attend every service of the church—to be ready unto every GOOD WORK. We'll be expecting you to be present this Wednesday evening. Let's make it 100 per cent.

Say kind words and you will hear kind echoes.

"PROVE ALL THINGS"

The following article is by Evangelist Don Hall. Bro. Hall is a son-in-law to Bro. Virgil Boler of Mammoth Spring.

We are exhorted to "contend earnestly for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3). Paul says he was "set for the defence of the Gospel" (Phil. 1:17). Again Paul says "prove all things, hold fast that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21). While at Athens "Therefore disputed he in the synagague with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him" (Acts 17:17). Still further Paul said "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ." (Rom. 1:16). Stephen, guided by the Holy Spirit, engaged in a public disputation. "There arose certain of the synagogue...disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake." (Acts 6:9-10). Since these New Testament writers were guided by the Holy Spirit, it is evident that a public discussion of a religious question was not wrong. It was not wrong then, and it is not wrong now.

All discussions should be in a kind spirit; but to refuse to contend for the truth is not the spirit of Christ. Anything that is not worth contending for is evidently no part of the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Hence, the church of Christ stands ready at any time to uphold the truth in either private or public discussion—and without fear of successful contradiction because truth has nothing to fear.

Any person that teaches something publicly should be willing to defend from the scriptures that which he has taught. If he does not, he implies by his silence that his teachings are false.

If you marry a child of the devil you are bound to have trouble with your father-in-law.

No man has as good a neighbor as he thinks his neighbor has.

WILL HONESTY AND SINCERITY ALONE SAVE?

Orbie Robbins — Elizabeth, Ark.

Many people have been led to believe that if one is honest and sincere in what they believe in the name of religion that God will save and accept them in the last great day. If this were true, then honesty and sincerity would exclude obedience to God. Solomon said it is the whole duty of man to fear God and keep his commandments. Ecc. 12:13-14.

Paul stated that Christ is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. Heb. 5:8-9. God accepts those who fear him and work righteousness, Acts 10:34-35, and David said "All thy commandments are righteousness." Psa. 119:172. Again, Blessed are they that do his commandments. Lev. 22:14. From these statements of divine truth we can see that obedience to God is required above the standard of honesty and sincerity. We do not minimize them for certainly hypocrisy will damn, but they alone will not save.

From a business standpoint, people will not accept and put into practice the idea that honesty and sincerity alone is a safe standard. Neither will they accept this standard on the point of self-protection. No one would say that rat poison could be taken in honesty and sincerity without ill results following. The same principle is true in religion. Honesty and sincerity alone will not save.

Israel, as a people, were honest and sincere, yet they were ignorant of God's righteousness and had not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. Rom. 10:1-4. In the last great day Jesus pictures a class that no doubt were honest and sincere, yet he said that he would say unto them, depart from me ye workers of iniquity. I never knew you. Mt. 7:22. Solomon said there is a way that seemeth right unto man but the end thereof are the ways of death. Prov. 14:23. Jeremiah said it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps. Jer. 10:23. From these scriptures we can again

see that honesty and sincerity alone will not secure divine approval. We can further see from the following examples that some were honest and sincere, yet wrong.

The Eunuch. Acts 8:35-39. He had traveled not less than 500 miles from Ethiopia to Jerusalem to worship according to the law. His zealousness even exceeded some people of today who will not travel one mile to worship. The record shows the Eunuch was worshipping in error. Phillip began at the scripture the Eunuch was reading and preached unto him Jesus. The result was he believed, was baptized and went on his way rejoicing.

Saul of Tarsus. Honest, sincere, but wrong. All the persecution that he waged against Christianity he did with all good conscience. Acts 23:1. To Agrippa he said, "I verily thought I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Acts 26:9. Later on the road to Damascus, when he realized that he was wrong, he said, Lord what would thou havest me to do? The Lord answered, Arise and go into the city and there it shall be told thee what thou must do. Acts 9:6. Three days later he was told what to do. Now, why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. Acts 22:16. We can see that Saul was honest and sincere but it took something more, namely, obedience to the Lord.

Regardless of how honest and sincere one may be in what he believes and practices in religion, if it isn't by the authority of Christ it will never meet with heaven's approval. To be infallibly safe we must obey Christ. Mt. 17:5. We must hear him or be destroyed. Acts 3:22-23.

By hearing and obeying Christ we build upon the rock to endure eternally. Mt. 7:26-27. By hearing and refusing to obey Christ we build upon sand, building for time only. Mt. 7:24-25. How are you building? In the judgment, will you stand as a wise or a foolish builder? We can obey Christ and be wise or refuse to obey and be foolish.