

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

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THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU

Rom. 16:16

Have miracles ceased? Failed? Vanished away? Friends, the scriptures emphatically declare that they have. It makes no difference what you have seen, or what you may have seen, or what some preacher has said that he has done. The scriptures are still true. Are you sure the "miracles" which you have witnessed are genuine? The Bible points out that the devil and his agents can and do perform miracles. (See Mat. 7:21-22; II Thes. 2:3-12.) All the miracles which are performed today are not by the power of God, but by the power of Beelzebub.

In 1st Cor. 12 there are nine spiritual gifts mentioned. These gifts were given to the early church for the precise purpose of aiding the church in its infancy. You may read of them in verses 8-10. However, in the last verse (31) Paul declares: "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." What is this more excellent way as in contrast with the nine spiritual gifts mentioned? Well, he begins chapter 13 with another subject, i. e. charity or love. Hence, love is the more excellent way. Yes, it was an excellent way when certain members of the church could perform miracles. But all the members can practice love, thus love is the more excellent way.

Now for the question: When did this excellent way (spiritual gifts) give place to the more excellent way (love)? Verses 8-10 reads thus: "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." From the reading of this we learn that three of the gifts are specifically declared to be done away when

CONTRIBUTIONS

Roby Blue, Wheeling, Ark., \$1.00
Fred Casey, West Plains, Mo. \$1.00
Bernice Price, House Springs, Mo. \$3
Name withheld \$2
A friend of the paper \$25
Mrs. Bill Shepperd, Mammoth Spring,
\$1.00.

We want to thank the Mammoth Spring church for making up the deficit of some twenty dollars for the past month.

NEWS

Brother Don Fike closed a successful meeting at Alton, Mo. on May 5. Two were baptized. Interest and attendance was good throughout.

We regret that Brother Don Flannigan is leaving for Illinois to make his home in that state. He had been preaching for the church at Thayer, Mo. for several months.

"that which is perfect is come." Men who claim to be able to perform miracles use these three more than any of the rest. Folk believe in present day prophecies, speaking in tongues, and miraculous knowledge.

Miracles were to be done away when the perfect thing came. Has it come yet? Yes, it is the perfect law of liberty in Christ. (Jas. 12:25). Is the New Testament perfect? Who will deny it? Then the perfect thing has come, therefore miracles have ceased.

In the last verse (13) of chapter 13 we read: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." At one time the church had miracles, but today we have only these three: faith, hope and love.

Friends, let us be content with what the scriptures teach; be not deceived by modern day miracle workers.

Don Flanagan

THE CHURCH AT UNION HILL

This congregation is located eight miles south, and two miles off of Highway 63, south of Mammoth Spring. They meet in a community building on the first and third Sunday mornings at ten o'clock. The second and fourth Sundays at two in the afternoon. Again in the morning on the fifth Sunday. The church numbers between fifteen and twenty members. The congregation was established by the church at Mammoth Spring when some of the individual members there realized that an opportunity for establishing the Cause was possible at Union Hill. Bro. Boyd Morgan held the first meeting, with several additions. Brother Elmo Hall then conducted two meetings. Several brethren from nearby congregations have preached on appointment here. Jodie Pendarvis and Denver Robinson serve the church as capable leaders. The brethren here do not let a lack of numbers cause them to give up. There are several children who attend regularly and this alone give hope for greater things in the future. The church at Union Hill is a regular contributor to this paper, giving five dollars each month to the carrying on of the Fulton County Gospel News.

NEWS

Brother Nathaniel Hunneycutt preached at Violet on the third Sunday in May. A basket dinner and singing in the afternoon was held in connection with Memorial Day.

Those visiting at Moten the first Sunday in May were: Earl Holloway, Idabel, Oklahoma; the Otho Powell family of Granite City, Illinois, the Bernice Price family of House Springs, Mo. Also the Ira Atkins family of Mammoth Spring.

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THE UNCHANGING GOSPEL IN A CHANGING WORLD

Clovis Ragsdale

In no other age have there been more changes than in our present generation. In the fields of science, political, social, and economic, great changes have and are taking place. This brings up the question: Does the many changes taking place in the material world call for changes in religious matters? We are not left to be without an answer to this question. The Apostle Paul answers in Gal. 1:7 and 8. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 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. In the previous verse, Paul had said that there were some which at even that time were changing the gospel of Christ. In 2 Tim. 3:16 and 17, Paul states that all scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto the all good works. If the scriptures are able to make one perfect why would man need to change them in any way? If man tampers with anything perfect the only results would be to make it imperfect for it is impossible to improve upon perfection.

The Jews of the time of Christ had laid aside the commands of God substituting the traditions of men. This worship was described by the Saviour

as vain worship. Then why will man today, with all these scriptural warnings, change the plan of worship lead down in the New Testament? Perhaps some will ask what are some of the ways in which man have changed or perverted the gospel. One of the first departures from the New Testament pattern was the practice of making one Elder to have under his control a group of Elders of several congregations. He was often referred to as a Archbishop. The use of the mechanical instrument in worship came into being several hundred years later. Infant baptism was first practiced by the catholics. Sprinkling as a substitute for baptism is another example of men changing the gospel to suit their own whims. Somewhere along the line men decided that it was not necessary to take of the Lord's Supper each first day of the week, in plain violation of Heb. 10:25, and Acts 20:7.

The divisions of the present day is another change which is not in keeping with the word of God. The first chapter of 1 Cor. teaches that division is sinful, yet men will boast of the fact that every man can go to the church of his choice, ignoring the prayer of our Saviour in his last hours on the earth, where He prayed that His followers might all be one. John 17:22.

Many have been guilty of changing the gospel by binding their opinions on their brethren, on matters of expediency, where the Bible merely commands that something be done, and leaves the methods of carrying out the command to the circumstances of the situation. There is danger in not speaking where the Bible speaks.

Many changes have and will take place in this world and Christ stated that heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Matt. 24:35. The things written in the New Testament are the last will and testament of God to His creation. He has suffered with man through two periods of time, Patriarchal and Mosaical, and now has given a perfect law to live by, one that is not to be changed. In James 1:25 we are told that whatsoever looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

A FORM OF UNBELIEF

A denominational preacher registered at a St. Louis hotel. As he was about to sign the registry he noticed Robert G. Ingersoll's name on the line above. He inquired if this was the Ingersoll of skepticism. Assured that he was, the preacher asked for his room number and rushed up to see him. On arriving, he quizzed the Colonel. "I wrote you several months ago and challenged you for a debate. Why did you not answer my letter?" The Colonel replied: "I did not answer your challenge because I know that you do not believe the Bible any more than I do." The preacher was insulted and asked for proof. Ingersoll picked up his Bible and turned to Mark 16:16. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." He asked the preacher, "Do you believe one must be baptized to be saved?" The preacher stammered, stuttered, and trembled, but had to answer in the negative. Then the Colonel said in triumph. "See, I knew you didn't believe the Bible, why should we debate?"

IDLENESS

The worst thing that can befall you or me is to have nothing to do. From that moment, life is an aimless, aching void, and to me a cruel torturer. Any man who has not experienced the joy of work has lived in vain. A life of ease and aimlessness is a daily purgatory.

Nothing to do! It is the worst curse that can fall upon man or woman. In prison it is extreme punishment. In this day of golden opportunities, I cannot conceive how any one in good health can be content without work. To find one's vocation, to work cheerfully and willingly; this is the real joy of living. —Selected

Many of life's failures are men who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.

Much happiness is overlooked because it doesn't cost anything.

INFLUENCE OF TEACHERS

"Be not many teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive heavier condemnation." (Jas. 3:1). The gravity of a teacher's position should not be overlooked by those who strive to teach. His influence for good or for evil is great. The pupil looks to the teacher for the example and the teaching. To teach and then not to do is worse than not teaching at all.

There are certain requisites for teachers of the word of God. One who teaches should have these requisites imprinted in his soul as a guide to his activities. These requisites may be enumerated thus:

1. Interest. Knowledge and ability are not sufficient within themselves for effective teaching. The teacher must be interested in the lesson to be taught, and in the one whom he is to teach. It takes love for God, the church, and the souls of men to make a good teacher. Without these factors, a Solomon would make a failure as a teacher.

2. Ability. In Paul's instruction to Timothy, he commanded that the word be committed to men "who shall be able to teach others also." Much of our teaching is ineffective because of the lack of ability. Ability cannot compensate for unfaithfulness, however. Ability to teach involves two factors: knowledge and capability to impart that known.

3. Faithfulness. The word Timothy was to teach was to be committed to faithful men. The emphasis is placed upon faithfulness, not upon men. This faithfulness is twofold: (1) "Holding fast the faithful word." (Tit. 1:9), (2) Being an "ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity." (1 Tim. 5:12.) If one is faithful to the word of God in teaching, but is not to the example of his life, then he is a failure as a teacher. One who is only interested in one service per week should not be placed before a class as a teacher. Elders should relieve such teachers of their teaching work. Such teachers are "unfaithful" instead of faithful.

4. Studiousness. "Study to show thyself approved unto God" is the instruction of the apostle. To handle the

word of God rightly, one must have a general knowledge of the Bible, and a special knowledge of the portion to be taught. Simply put, it might be said, "study the whole, the book, the chapter, the verse, and the word. In this way, one is prepared, as to text."

5. Diligence. "In diligence not slothful," Paul said. (Ro. 12:11.) With diligence, a lesson should be prepared. The diligent will be ready in every sense for the class: prepared in knowledge, attitude, and present to begin promptly. Tardiness of the teacher is an interest killer.

6. Tact. This is the ability to say the right thing at the right time and place and in the right way. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures (network) of silver." (Prov. 25:11.)

A teacher once took over a class of unruly pupils in a school system. He immediately ordered a book on how to handle children. The first sentence in the book read: "As is the teacher, so is the pupil. He immediately ordered another book on how the teacher should teach! It can truly be said: "As is the teacher, so is the taught." Hence, it becomes of vital importance for the elders of a congregation to select with care those who teach the word of God. If there is a teacher among the group who has not enough interest to support every phase of the church program, both materially and morally, then by all means relieve him of herent of teaching responsibility. This is to save the church from becoming infected with unconcern, unfaithfulness and inactivity.

THE CARNAL MIND

The apostle Paul speaks of the carnal mind in his writings. He tells us that "The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Ro. 8:7-8.) From these verses it sounds as though one living in a fleshly, carnal body cannot please the Lord, but the apostle hastens to clarify the thought by saying: "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none

of his." (Ro. 8:9.) So it is clear that those in the flesh, carnal, are those in whom the Spirit does not dwell. But the Spirit dwells in the obedient. We are witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, (Spirit), whom God hath given to them that obey him." (Acts 5:32.) So the one who refuses to obey the command of God is "carnal minded" is "in the flesh." But upon his obedience to the will of the Lord, he immediately passes from the state of carnality to a state of spirituality.

We are told by many that this transition is made through a miraculous operation of the Spirit, but it is clear from that which we have noticed that this is done through obedience to the commands of God. Such are still in a fleshly body, but that flesh has become subservient to the Spirit of God. Hence, the individual is "in the Spirit" and not "in the flesh." Man is dual in make-up, possessing flesh and spirit. Flesh cannot be appeared to, but spirit can. The Spirit of God appeals to the spirit of man through teaching. Upon reception of the teaching of God's Spirit through obedience, the spirit of man brings the flesh into subjection of God's Spirit, thus bringing about the salvation of the soul.

WHAT MUST I DO?

Three times in the New Testament the question is raised: "What must I do?" or its equivalent. This is a great question and the answer is of much importance. The answer to the same question today should be the same as in New Testament days.

The believing Jews on Pentecost asked the question of Peter. His reply was, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." The same answer should be given today.

The believing penitent, Saul, asked the Lord this question. He was told to go to the city for the answer. Ananias gave the answer thus: "Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins." This answer should be given today.

The heathen jailor asked this question of Paul, and received this reply: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

THE CURSE OF NEGLIGENCE

Marion Farley — Dallas 17, Texas
Jer. 48:10; Heb. 2:3

Nearly thirty years ago during a Lenten service in Nashville, a lecturer made this statement; "Negligence is the great sin of this nation, it is sapping the life out of the church in this day."

The same is true in our day, if anything, it seems to be gaining momentum yearly.

According to reliable authorities, negligence in the home is the chief cause of the crime wave among the youth of our nation, it is pathetic indeed to see so many children on Sunday morning, roaming the streets, many of them not even half clad, while the parents are still lying up in bed. It is no wonder we have so much juvenile delinquency.

We 'reap what we sow', this is a law of nature, and even though often it is not intended, the seeds (deeds) sown, will produce after their kind.

When the moral and spiritual welfare of the child are neglected, sooner or later the law invariably has to take over, causing shame and heartache to both parent and child.

A grief-stricken mother once sought the help of an Indiana Governor in behalf of her son. She had this to say: "My boy is in prison, my heart is broken, what have I done that I must suffer this way?" The reply was: "It may be a question of what you have not done". In other words, she was suspected of neglecting her boy, and thereby being the cause of her son's downfall through her own negligence.

One of the greatest dangers of negligence is the fact it's consequences are not seen immediately.

It has been proven time and again a greivous sinner can be reached easier than a negligent church member, the latter often will answer: "What have I done", when in reality it is what was left undone. Neglect may be more vividly illustrated by the following comparisons:

Two men go to town the same day and purchase a piece of machinery, each one takes a hammer and beats his to pieces, while the other sets his out in the field, exposing it to the sun and rain, never giving it any care, and finally

ally it is consumed with rust. Which would you say is the greater destroyer?

Two women have infants—one murders hers in cold blood, while the other neglects hers until it starves to death. Would you say the latter is not a murderer?

The Jewish nation, God's chosen people, neglected to teach their children the precepts God had given them, neglected Tithing, neglected to attend the annual feasts, thereby neglecting the worship of Jehovah, resulting eventually in being given into the hands of their enemies as God had so often warned them, through the prophets.

The one talent man was condemned because of neglecting his duty, not for being overly wicked in other ways.

The foolish virgins also because of their neglect, were not admitted into the bridegroom's home, and not because of some gross injustice done to the bridegroom otherwise.

On the day of judgment, negligence is, according to Jesus in Matt. 25:31-43, going to be the great sin that will condemn those gathered before the King to receive the reward for the things done or left undone, in this life—the only sin mentioned in these verses was the sin of neglect. He said: "Because ye did it not", these would go away into everlasting punishment.

Are we giving as much to mission work as we ought to? Do we have a burning zeal for the lost as we should? Then could it be negligence on our part?

Are we attending the Bible classes as we should? Are we there Sunday night and Wednesday night, too? Then it is a lack of opportunity, or is it the SIN of neglect?

We are NOT going to hear the great King say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant", if we continue to neglect our duties and obligations to Him, for THIS IS UNFAITHFULNESS.

We had better heed the two texts, and heed them at once. They read as follows: "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully (negligently). (Jer. 48:10), and "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation." (Heb. 2:3).

Brother, Sister, Friend, there is positively no way of escape for the negligent. We ought to wake up to the fact

THINGS WORTH READING

"There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all argument, and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance. That PRINCIPLE IS CONDEMNATION BEFORE INVESTIGATION."—Herbert Spencer.

* * * * *

"Progress is never accomplished without sacrifice and problems. Things that are worth-while never come easy.

We have been taught that 'they that will live righteous in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.' This is simply another demonstration that if what you do or what you are amounts to anything, it is because that by blood, sweat and tears it has been forged.

It might be well for us many times to determine if we are making progress and if we are doing anything worth-while by gauging the sacrifice, persecution and problems we are facing.

Beware when life becomes easy and there are no problems. It may mean that you are simply drifting downstream."—Editorial, Christian Chronicle.

* * * * *

"A slip of the foot you may soon recover but a slip of the TONGUE you may never get over."

GEMS OF TRUTH

The wages of sin is death, unless we retire from the services of the DEVIL before pay day.

* * * * *

The man who acknowledges his faults in private and tries to defend them in public is double-minded, hence, unstable.

* * * * *

To make mistakes is human; to correct mistakes is right; to repeat old mistakes is stupid.

* * * * *

The caliber of a man is indicated by the size of the mote that he sees in his brothers eye. The larger the mote the smaller the caliber.

precious souls are held in the balance, awaiting our decision. What will it be?