

# FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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## SUFFER IT NOW

—Boyd E. Morgan

Sometimes folks ask us the question: "You folks baptize in order to receive the forgiveness of sins. Well, why was Jesus baptized, He had no sins to forgive."

Just turn the thing around. Since he had no sins to forgive, he wasn't baptized because his sins were forgiven, was he? This crumbles some folks definition of Acts 2:38. Well, why was He baptized? Let him answer. He came to John to be baptized of him. John knew what he was baptizing for. Mark 1:4. "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." Therefore, he forbade Christ. He knew Jesus had no sins to be forgiven, this is why he said in forbidding to baptize him. "I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me." Matt. 3:14. Listen to Jesus' answer to John. "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." Matt. 3:15. After this the record says: Then he suffered him.

Our Saviour bids us to follow him. He is the perfect example. Had he not been baptized how many would say, 'Well, we are to follow Jesus and he wasn't baptized.' He knew those who would preach the gospel, would have trouble enough getting people to be baptized, but more than this, it was His desire and His statement that He wanted to fulfill all righteousness.

What about you? Have you fulfilled all righteousness, or are you forbidding yourself the duty of being baptized as Jesus commanded? Read Acts 10:35. "But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Jesus himself worketh righteousness and was baptized that nothing be lacking. Now, why argue and wrangle about it? When Jesus spoke to John, John suffered it to be so. It would have been foolishness for him to continue arguing.

Suffer it now. Read I Peter 3:20-21.

## THE GREAT INVITATION

Mt. 11:28-30

Orbie Robbins — Elizabeth, Arkansas  
It is to be considered an honor and tribute to be invited to something. An invitation can be accepted or rejected, but to accept carries with it obligations and duties.

Let us consider the great invitation of the text: Who extends it? Jesus Christ. This invitation is further endorsed and extended by the Holy Spirit and the bride (the church) (Rev. 22:17. We are also called by the gospel, "Whereunto he called you by our gospel." II Thes. 2:14.

Who are invited? All ye that labor and are heavy laden. Mt. 11:28; Him that is athirst. Rev. 22:17; Whosoever will. Rev. 22:17. From these we learn that the invitation is extended to all who are subjects of Gospel address. The doctrine that God fore-ordained and predestinated a certain number called the elect to be saved is not in harmony with this invitation. Man is a free agent and can accept or reject this invitation. God is not willing that any should perish. II Pet. 3:9.

Jesus said to certain Jews, Ye will not come to me that ye might have life. John 5:40. They could have come but would not. They were free to do so but rejected him. The same erroneous doctrine before mentioned teaches that the non-elect cannot come. But to show that this is untrue, Jesus said, "He that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." John 5:37.

Now, why invited? To have rest. (The pardon or forgiveness of sins). Jesus said, Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Mt. 11:28. Also to partake of the water of life freely. Rev. 22:17 and to have eternal life. Mt. 11:30. "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, and ye shall find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

What are the conditions of this invitation? Must come to Christ. Mt. 11:28; Must take upon us the yoke of Christ. Mt. 11:29; learn of Christ. Mt.

11:30; obey him. Heb. 5:8-9; John 6:44-45; Mt. 7:21-22.

Those conditions of the great invitation complied with provides salvation. If rejected brings damnation.

Lastly, why a great invitation? It cannot be compared with a man-made invitation for it is from the divine Christ. This makes it a divine invitation from the courts of heaven itself. If accepted in its fullness, it will take one to heaven. Mt. 11:28-30.

Why not accept this greatest invitation ever made known to man? The Lord stands at the door and knocks. Rev. 3:20. "Today if you hear his voice harden not your hearts." Heb. 3:15. If you are lost, it will not be because you cannot accept, but rather because you will not accept his invitation.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO PAPER

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"God didn't put me on this earth  
To have an easy time,  
He put me here to fight a fight,  
To hold a battle line.  
He put me here to help the weak,  
And help myself grow strong;  
He put me here to lend a hand  
And help the world along.  
He put me here to say a word  
Of encouragement and cheer;  
He put me here to sing a song  
For someone else to hear.  
He didn't put me here to whine,  
Stick out my lips, and pout;  
He put me here to work,  
And Satan's evil rout.  
He only asks I do my best  
To carry out his plan,  
Forget rewards and starry crowns,  
And leave all in His hand."

—Selected

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**Editors: Clovis Ragsdale and**  
**Boyd E. Morgan**

**EDITORIAL**

It is time to consider the church at Camp again. Attendance now runs from a low of 14 to a high of 35. This is considerable progress from the beginning of zero there two years ago this summer. Things are looking good prospectively for continued growth. Bro. Clovis Ragsdale preaches there on fifth Sundays and Bro. Irwin Cowan and Marvin Ed Berry preaches one Sunday a month each. The brethren there need to be visited regularly by men capable of leadership in making talks and teaching Bible class.

Total indebtedness now is \$300.00. Sixty dollars of this is on the butane system and twenty dollars is for gas in the tank. This can be cared for by the congregation there. The balance of \$220 represents a note that will be due this fall for money borrowed to complete the building. Bro. Ike Dawson signed the note, and we must help them financially on this obligation. Several churches and individuals sent in contributions to this work, but we must not quit until the job is done. Some have promised to help and are urged not to put it off. Many such times neglect causes good intentions to go to naught. Its good to intend, but no benefit is derived from intentions until carried out. If the congregation where you meet promised to help Camp or if the matter never came up, will you not bring it up at the next meeting and help us get this indebtedness paid. It may be necessary for those of us who have helped once to help again.

Your visit and presence at services to Camp will be appreciated anytime.

—Boyd E. Morgan

**A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

**By Don Hall**

**Minister, Church of Christ**

A new Testament church has no creed but the Bible. The Bible is the all-sufficient and only infallible guide from earth to heaven. "Thy

word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalms 119:105. It is profitable for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work. II Tim. 3:16-17. The Bible provides for and demands unity among the Lord's people, Ephesians 4:1-6; John 17:20-21; I Cor. 1:10. Human creeds foster divisions. Let us use only the Bible.

A new Testament church wears no Name but that of Christ. We are saved in his name. Acts 4:11-12. We pray in his name. John 14:13-14. And as Christian we "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." Col. 3:17. Christ said "I will build MY CHURCH" Matt. 16:18. He bought his church with his blood, Acts 20:28. Christ is the head of his church, which is his spiritual body, Col. 1:18. He is the foundation of his church, I Cor. 3:11. He is the saviour of his church, Eph. 5:23. In that same passage of scripture we find that Christ is the husband and the church is the wife or bride. What wife would be accepted by her husband if she absolutely refused to wear his name and wore that of another man. Why then should not the church wear the name of her husband even Christ? The church belongs to Christ, not christians.

A New Testament church has no Worship but of the New Testament. True worshippers worship the Father in spirit and truth, John 4:23. Therefore, in order for worship to be acceptable to God, it must be from the hearts that are truly sincere and which are guided strictly by the Word of God, which is truth, John 17:17. Divine public worship consists of the following: singing, Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16; prayer, Acts 2:42; teaching and preaching God's Word, Acts 5:42; the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, Acts 20:7; contribution on the first day of the week, I Cor. 16:1-2. These are the items of worship given by the Lord to those who would worship Him. Who rightly should be pleased in this matter: the worshippers or God? An item of worship which is not directed to God as its object, misses its mark and is therefore vain. Of all who use man's innovations in their worship, Jesus declares, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the com-

mandments of men." Matt. 15:9.

A New Testament preacher who preaches for a New Testament church does not apply titles to himself not found in the New Testament. For example most Denominational preachers, is nowhere found in the New Testament and is only once found in the Old Testament. "Holy and reverend is His name." Psalms 111:9. There the term "reverend" is applied to God. **WHAT PREACHER DESERVES TO WEAR A TITLE APPLIED IN THE BIBLE TO GOD?** The term "Pastor" is another title that Denominational preachers have usurped for themselves. That title is found one time in the New Testament. Eph. 4:11. There it refers to a group of men in a congregation who have met certain qualifications and are in other passages called Elders, Bishops, or Overseers. In the New Testament those who do the public speaking are called preacher, the title "Reverend" applied to elders, ministers, servants, evangelists, and brother. Why is it that titles the New Testament applies to certain men are not enough today?

We invite you to the services of the church of Christ where we use Bible terms for Bible things, where we conduct Bible worship in Bible ways, and where we urge you to obey God according to the Bible.

**THE INFALLIBLE SAFE WAY**

**Clovis Ragsdale**

We are familiar with the desire of people to be safe in whatever endeavor they undertake. When we pay a bill we ask for a receipt, which will show beyond a shadow of doubt that our obligation has been taken care of. No one would buy a farm without first making sure that a deed which could be abstracted could be obtained for that place. We think of this as good business. Yet we do not hold to this attitude in spiritual matters. The saving of our souls is by far the most important business that we are ever called upon to transact. The chances we take with our spiritual matters would be unthinkable in the business world because they surely would lead to failure.

The Pharisees of the time of Christ had added to the law, the traditions of men, and were classed as vipers by our Saviour. They had forsaken the safe way for a way that Jesus con-



demned. Can this happen today? In Matt. 7:14 Christ said that the way was narrow and that few would find it. This should cause every Christian to think seriously and to study closely to see if he is living as the Bible directs. Instead, many will depend upon creeds, disciplines, and manuals for much of their practice. This is not the way of Christians of the early day for we are told in Acts 2:42, they continued steadfast in the apostles' doctrine. What was the apostles' doctrine? It was the things Jesus taught them and what the Holy Spirit revealed to them. The infallible safe way would be to take what the apostles taught and to leave off the things found in man made creeds.

The Bible is the only creed we need today. Paul wrote Timothy 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 of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. If man would take the Bible, and the Bible only, much division could be avoided. It would not be necessary to "join a church." When we do what the people of New Testament times did, God will add us to the church. Nothing is said about the church of our choice. What was told people to do in order to be added to the church? The people assembled on Pentecost were told to repent and be baptized. Acts 2:38. Philip told the Ethiopian eunuch to believe, confess, and to be baptized. The Philippian jailer was told to believe and was baptized.

The above mentioned examples saved those from past sins but does not guarantee salvation in the end, for Paul teaches in I Cor. 15:58 that we must be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Heb. 10:25 warns that we are not to forsake the assembling together like some were doing. The Christians at Galatia were warned against doing the works of the flesh: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, and such like. Instead they were told to do the works of the spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Rev. 2:10 tells us that those who are faith-

ful unto death shall receive a crown of life. To do these things is to follow the infallibly safe way.

#### YOUTH AND CHRISTIANITY

The time of year has arrived when many young people achieve one of life's greatest accomplishments, that of graduating from high school. The question is asked, what does graduating have to do with being a Christian? Does not the Bible teach that worldly wisdom profiteth little? Yes, we have many examples of Biblical characters who were not learned men. The wisdom of the world is small in comparison with that of God. Yet we also have the example of an educated man who did much for the kingdom of Christ. His name was Saul of Tarsus, better known as Paul. He received his schooling at the feet of Gamaliel, a great Jewish scholar. Paul was a chosen vessel to perform a mission. That he was educated only qualified him all the more for his great task.

Great opportunities for working in the Master's kingdom, are to be had today, for young people who have qualified themselves in higher learning. Gospel preachers are in demand as well as missionaries to go in foreign fields, where they may teach school as well as Bible. There is a great shortage of public school teachers in our nation. School teachers have an excellent opportunity to mold the characters of youth. We need more young people, with a strong faith in God, to enter this field.

Where shall I go to college? Many of our state supported schools have become very ungodly in nature. Schools, where the Bible is not stressed, allow infidelity to be taught. This weakens the faith of some and they cease to attend church. Christian colleges, where the Bible is taught daily, makes for a stronger faith in God and awakens a desire to labor for Him. It is possible that some may choose occupations that may not be taught in most Christian colleges. A good rule is to attend a Christian school for the first year or two and then finish where it will be possible to get the desired subjects.

Those who are able to go on to higher learning should never forget that the wisdom of this world is small in comparison to that of God. Their

responsibility to God becomes greater and this should help them to ever be humble before man and God.

A wise man reflects before he speaks; a fool speaks and then reflects in what he has uttered.

Thrift is a wonderful virtue, especially in an ancestor.

#### NEWS

Bro. and Sis. M. C. Ragsdale, Bro. John Smith, Bro. Clovis Ragsdale, and Bro. Boyd Morgan spent May 8 at Southern Christian Home, Morrilton, Ark. This was Homecoming day with all day services. Bro. George Derhoff preached. The brethren saw the Ellis children and spent some time with them. It is a comfort to know these children are receiving the good care that is theirs.

Bro. C. Ray Miller of Kansas City began a meeting at Alton Monday night, May 14 and will continue through Wednesday night, May 23. You have an invitation from all the brethren there to attend.

Bro. Boyd Morgan began a meeting with the Lone Park church in Rockford, Ill. May 18. He will return to begin a meeting at Hilltop, near Williford, on Tuesday night, May 29. Your attendance at Hilltop will certainly be welcomed.

Bro. Lowell Blasingame of Grenada, Miss. will begin a series of meetings at Ring June 18. Keep this date in mind and make plans to attend.

During April two men were baptized into Christ at Mammoth Spring and two persons confessed sins and were restored. Two more have been restored during May.

Bro. Arthur Taylor will preach at Mammoth Spring the first Sunday in June. Bro. Taylor was once a resident here and is now living in Poplar Bluff. It will be nice to have him and Sister Taylor back for the day.

One was baptized in English Creek out at Welcome Hill Thursday, May 10. The brethren rejoice to receive him among the number.

Bro. Keith Boler of Harding College will be available from June 1 till Sept 1 to direct song services for meetings. Write Keith Boler, Mammoth Spring, Arkansas.

## DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

Marion Farley — Dallas 17, Texas  
Heb. 10-22

This scripture says, "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."

In noticing the first part of this verse, we are made to realize the importance of our hearts being near to our God, that a true heart is necessary to please him. After Solomon's exhortation in the fourth chapter of Proverbs to hear God's words and keep them in the heart (they being essential to life) in verse 23 he says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." Since the heart is the seat of moral life, it is most essential that it be kept pure. "All diligence" must be exercised to keep it that way.

God promised through James (Jas. 4:8), that when we "Draw nigh to God" he will "Draw nigh to us". Isn't it wonderful to know that the God whom we serve, will be near us, to keep us and help us in all of our trials? That he is our comfort and our shield, both in prosperity and in adversity?

But he has absolutely no pleasure in 'lip-service' when the heart is not near him. Jesus sanctioned the prophecy of Isaiah made hundreds of years before, and applied the scripture to that people he was addressing (the scribes and the pharisees) which reads, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." (Matt. 15:8). He was condemning them for holding the traditions of their fathers above the commandments of God, which things God had given them through the law of Moses to observe and keep.

On another occasion he told the Jews that, " whatsoever they command you, that observe and do, but do not after their works, for they say and do not", whatever they commanded them out of the law of Moses they were to do, for this law was still binding, and continued to be until he was nailed to the cross, at which time he, "took it out of the way."

They were quick to bind the traditions of their fathers, handed down from one generation to another, such as washing their hands before they ate as essential to their salvation, but to leave off these things really necessary. By their traditions they made the ordinances of God of no effect. Jesus said this was 'vain worship, for they were, "teaching for doctrine the commandments of men."

If he should suddenly come back to earth, he would have a lot of condemning to do, he would find one church teaching sprinkling for or instead of baptism; another taking the Lord's supper once every three months, six months, or once each year; one teaching that a person is saved before being immersed, and hundreds of other things as ridiculous and in direct opposition to the teaching of God's eternal Word.

Let us know assuredly that men are not near to God while keeping the commandments of men.

Remedy? Return to the "Old Paths" teaching and following ONLY the inspired scripture, which will completely furnish a Christian unto ALL GOOD WORKS. (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

### WHY DON'T YOU DO IT NOW?

Many times you have thought that you would follow the right, though all the world go wrong, that you would consecrate your life to God, give your all in service to Him, but you thought you would wait a while, just dabble in worldly pleasures a few more days, a few more months, or perhaps a few more years, but wait— Why don't you do it now?

Why not come out for what you know to be right, do the things that God wants you to do, never swerving, but go on and on, loyal and true? Why don't you do it now?

To give your life in service to God, to help the needy, the helpless and weak, to give Him your best will not only give to you the best in life here but eternal joy in the life to come. Then why wait? WHY DON'T YOU DO IT NOW?

### REFLECTIONS OF THE MINISTER

If you want to have the kind of a church

Like the kind of a church you like;

You needn't slip your clothes in a grip

And start on a long long hike.  
You'll only find what you left behind  
For there's nothing really new.

It's a knock at yourself when you knock the church

It isn't the church — it's you.

When everything seems to be going wrong

And trouble is everywhere brewing;  
When Prayer Meeting, Bible Classes  
And all seem simmering, slowing  
stewing;

Just take a look at yourself and say,  
What's the use of being blue?

Are you doing your bit to make things hit?

It isn't the church — it's you.

It's really strange sometimes don't you know

That things go as well as they do  
When we think of the little, the very little mite

We add to the work of the few.

We sit, stand around, and complain  
of whats done

And do very little but fuss.

Are we bearing our share of the burdens to bear?

It isn't the church — it's you.

So if you want to have the kind of a church

Like the kind of a church you like;  
Put off your guile and put on your best smile

And hike, my brother, just hike  
To the work in hand that has to be done

To the work of saving a few,

It isn't the church that is wrong, my boy,

It isn't the church — it's you.

—Selected

### SHORTS

The follies of youth become the vices of manhood, and the disgrace of old age.

It is not by man's purse, but by his character, that he is rich or poor.

A woman is about the only thing that can't fall.

A gossip talks about others; a bore talks about himself; a brilliant conversationalist talks about you.

It has always been easier to oppose a religious effort than to work and sacrifice in behalf of it.

No one can grow by letting others make his decisions.