

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

July 15, 1954

Sec. 3465 P. L. & R.

U. S. Postage

1c Paid

Permit No. 1

Clara Ragsdale

The Gospel Of Christ

Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark.

The gospel of Christ has existed in at least five different phases.

1. In the mind of God — Eph. 3:10-10.
2. In promise — Gen. 22:18.
3. In prophecy — Isa. 2:1-3.
4. In preparations — Lk. 1:17.
5. In fact — 1 Cor. 15:1-4.

After the fall of man, God began to purpose or plan man's redemption. Eph. 3:11—"According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus." Considering this, we see the gospel as it existed in the purpose or mind of God.

Next we see it in promise as stated in Gen. 22:18. "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Paul says that seed was Christ in Gal. 3:16.

Then Isaiah prophesied of the gospel when he said, "Out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Isa. 2:3.

When John the Baptist began his work the gospel then began in preparation. Mt. 3:2. "Prepare ye the Way of the Lord make his paths straight", and also Lk. 1:17 which states that his work was to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

The gospel next existed in fact after Jesus died, was buried and rose again the third day. 1 Cor. 15:4. "for I delivered unto you first of all how that Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures, was buried and rose again the third day, according to the scriptures."

After having pointed out the different phases of the gospel, let us now consider the following question. What is the gospel? It is something God wants preached to every creature upon the earth, for Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mt. 16:15-16. Jesus also stated that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations begin-

Continued on page 3

Blackboards, Charts, Etc.

Boyd E. Morgan — Mammoth Spring

It seems to be a great cause of wonderment among the ranks of the uninformed as to why the church of Christ opposes instrumental music. The motto of faithful brethren has risen many times to attack the world by saying "Where the Bible Speaks, we speak; Where the Bible is Silent we are silent." The reason we do not use instrumental music is because the Bible says sing. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Eph. 5:19. This is a plain simple command, and is easy to understand. It is carried out by singing—the fruit of the lips. To sing and play instruments of music both is to do more than the command. To play is to add to God's Word. To add is to sin. The Bible speaks. It says sing. We speak with it or stand condemned.

But some will say, "The Bible nowhere says not to play the organ or piano." No, it needs not to. It says Sing, and to do more is to impose upon God's silence. When is the command fulfilled? I have attended what was supposedly worship when the instrument alone was played, have you? The instrument is not an aid to singing as is claimed. The church of Christ has as good, if not better singers than any or all denominations, and these singers do what God says. To admit dependence upon an instrument is to admit inefficiency.

Sometimes when denominational preachers are pressed for the scripturalness of instrumental music, they answer only by saying, "Why the church of Christ claims to speak, where the Bible speaks, and to be silent where the Bible is silent and they don't use instruments, but they use blackboards and charts." Only to the most gullible does this answer suffice. Once in awhile one will even brazenly say, "Why, the Bible doesn't say anything about a church

house, either."

First, the church of Christ objects to nothing used as an expedient to services that does not alter or deter from a command in any way. We preach with and without charts, in and out of church houses. But the moment any thing is used that alters the command of God, we oppose it. We do not write religious laws, we follow what God has written. The command of God is to teach. The method here is open—just as the command to sing is open, as long as a person is singing. God did not say sing soprano, alto, tenor, or bass. All these singers may sing freely and pleasingly to God. Teachers who teach please God. They may preach in the pulpit, teach privately, write a sermon, or speak a lesson orally; use a blackboard, chart, pencil, chalk, or pen, so long as they teach what is the will of God. When a person alters that command, he sins. When he plays he alters it. Herein is the sin committed.

If and when a church house altered God's command, we would oppose it. Since it does not, we use them to teach in. The apostles and Jesus used hillsides, hilltops, boats, synagogues, upper rooms, private homes and the temple to teach the truth. It is the truth that frees and not the place the truth is presented in. "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands." Acts 17:24. The most beautiful temple would not insure our salvation, but the gospel, heard, believed, and obeyed will save us, though it be received under the branches of the most humble tree. God dwells in the hearts of men, but He does not dwell in an organ, a piano, or guitar. "Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." Acts 17:25. Wretched indeed is the perversion of preachers who teach God, is worshipped with the tones pecked out of a piano by men's hands or pumped out of an organ, or plucked out of a guitar. God who dwells in the heart of man, commands, "singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Fulton County Gospel News
Mammoth Spring Ark.

Published Monthly
Free Subscription

Sponsored by:

Welcome Hill Church of Christ
Elders; Hubert Taylor

Lester Martin

Supported by Moten, Pilot, Wel-
come Hill and Union Hill
churches

Editors; Clovis Ragsdale
Boyd E. Morgan

Editorial

Writing at the request of the brethren who make up the Viola congregation, I would like to pass on to the readers of this paper their thanks and gratitude to the many who aided in the erection of the new building. It has been my privilege to meet with those brethren since the church has been meeting in it's building and I could not fail to take notice of their zeal and determination to "abound more and more" in the work of the Lord.

Bro. Bobby Hilburn, minister of the Salem congregation is teaching a mid-week Bible class on Thursday night. This is in its beginning and much good should come from it.

Bro. Walter C. Billingsley of West Plains is to begin their meeting July 20. Listen for announcements over the West Plains broadcast on the daily program of the church there. Station KWPM at 12:30 noon.

Attendance at Viola has shown an increase during the past few weeks. Several visitors are in evidence at almost every service. This is due in part to the fact that Viola is near the large Norfolk resort area. This was recognized as one of the reasons for a building to be located at Viola. But part of the visitors are from the home community and in this we, too, rejoice.

The future looks bright for this new congregation. It is hoped that this work will be an inspiration for other such ventures and that it will cause Christians in general and congregations in particular, to realize what can be done if an all-out effort is put forth. May we not cease to go forward realizing that the fields are white already to harvest.

Clovis Ragsdale



This sextette of gospel singers from Southwestern Christian College of Terrell, Texas put on programs at both Mammoth Spring and Thayer last week. Southwestern is the only college in the brotherhood dedicated to the training of negro youth in Christian education. The man who cannot appreciate the talent of these young people because of color is shallow indeed.

Mammoth Spring and Thayer experienced one of their largest crowds for these events.

Contact the school to arrange for appearance in your community if desired.

The Gospel Of Christ

Continued from page 1

ning at Jerusalem. Lk. 24:46-48.

The importance of preaching the gospel is shown in Paul's statement in 2 Cor. 9:16. "Woe unto me if I preach not the gospel of Christ." Paul also states in Gal. 1:7-8 that the curse of heaven is resting upon man or angel that would preach any other gospel.

The gospel is something of which God wants all to obey. Rom. 1:16. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth to the Jew first and also the Greek." Again Paul said, "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven in flaming fire with his angels taking vengeance on them who know not God and obey not the gospel." 2 Thss. 1:7-8.

The gospel is good news or glad tidings, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things." Rom. 10:16.

The death and burial of our Lord alone did not bring good news to his disciples, but when he was resurrected, the good news or glad tidings were connected with these facts. This proves his divinity as the Christ and brought into existence a new living hope, which we can lay hold of through obedience to the gospel.

The gospel consists of (1) **Facts** to be believed; the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. (2) **Commands** to be obeyed which consists of Faith, Repentance—Changes the like, Acts for remission of sins. (3) **Blessings** to be enjoyed.

The commands of the gospel when obeyed turns one back to God in every way in which they are turned away from God.

Man is turned away from God in heart, in life, and in relationship. Faith changes the heart, Acts 15:3. Repentance—Changes the life, Acts 11:18. Baptism changes the relationship, Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27. Since baptism as the final act of obedience to the gospel changes the relationship, it brings us into Christ. We can then enjoy the blessings and promises of the gospel, for Paul stated in Eph. 1:3, for all spiritual blessings are in Christ. Which would in-

clude the following:

Redemption — Eph. 1:7.

Salvation — 2 Tim. 2:10.

All Promises — 1 Cor. 1:20.

New Creature — 2 Cor. 5:17.

Reconciliation — 2 Cor. 5:19-20.

Righteousness of God — 2 Cor. 5:21.

New Life — Rom. 6:3-4.

Sanctified — Col. 1:2.

Forgiveness of Sins — Col. 1:14.

In conclusion have you obeyed the gospel? If not, then think seriously upon 1 Pet. 4:17-18. "The time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God; and if it first began at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God."

And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

—SHORTS — ae—

The surest steps toward happiness are the church steps. Tread them often. —Boles Home News

When you talk, you teach; when you listen, you learn.

Count that day as wasted when you have not laughed.

Luke tells us of a man in Jesus' day who had "devils long time" and as a result, "wore no clothes." Jesus caused the devils to go out of the man, and as a result he was found sitting at the feet of Jesus "clothed and in his right mind."

Comment: Attention girls, who insist on wearing practically no clothing. —Market St. Messenger

A worldly-wise lady said, "Oh, all the religions have so much good in them." To which a wise man replied. "So has rat poison; it is 98% corn-meal, yet the poison in it is enough to kill. —West Plains Gospel Courier.

MEETING SCHEDULE

O. Ray Miller..Moten, Ark... July 17.. 26

W. E. Bingham..Camp, Ark... July 20 - 29

Walter C. Billingsley..Viola, Ark...July 19.. 28.

J. A. McNutt, Agass, Ark... July 14 23

J. A. McNutt, Hart, Ark... July 24.. Aug. 1.



Mission Meeting

— At —
CAMP, ARKANSAS
Sponsored by Welcome Hill
CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 20-29

Bro. W. E. Bingham

will do the preaching
Bro. Bingham held the meeting at Welcome Hill June 4-13. He is from West Frankfort, Ill. We urge you to come reason together with us. Your questions concerning the Bible will be answered publicly if desired or otherwise privately.

COME BE WITH US.

A Friendly Exhortation

Bobby D. Hilburn, Salem

The season of gospel meetings is here. In fact, they are now in progress all over the country. Many congregations are putting forth a special effort to financially support these meetings. A great deal of other work is being done to make them possible.

Meetings are an old and effective way to convert the souls of men and women everywhere, and as long as the gospel is preached, there will be a need for them. Too, many times my brethren will make the necessary arrangements for a meeting and then sit back and leave it up to the preacher to do the rest. Then, if there is no visible results, they label such a preacher as a "would be" and get another preacher for the next year and experience the same procedure every year.

Every Christian has a duty to perform in connection with these meetings. He must do personal work himself to build up souls for the meeting. Many times the reason for the failure of a meeting is the neglect on the part of the individual Christian to perform this duty. We have a job to do.

Before our meeting starts, we should go into the homes of our friends and neighbors and introduce them to Jesus Christ, in truth. We should talk to them about their soul and the desire of both ourselves and the Lord to win them to Christ. We should reveal unto them the gospel plan of Salvation and the joy and happiness that dwells in Christianity. We should invite them to the services each night and if needed, provide them a way to get there. We should work with the preacher, by having a list of interested people for him to visit with us. We should explain things not understood about the church its origin, its doctrine and its practices. We need also to show them the danger of denominationalism and try to win them to Christ. "He that is wise, winneth souls." Prov. 11:30.

After the meeting is over, our job has just begun. We are to "follow up" or build to the things which the preacher has proclaimed. If the person, or persons, with whom we have been working have not been converted, we are to continue our

efforts toward them and have patience. Sometimes it takes months and even years to fully convince a man that he is wrong and you are right, therefore, be not discouraged, but keep fighting because the soul of man is his most precious possession and should be saved.

The church has an urgent need for men and women who are able and willing to do personal work, not only in connection with a gospel meeting, but every day throughout the year. In Jude 3, where we're exhorted to "contend earnestly for the faith," the Evangelist Jude wasn't speaking to preachers and elders only, but to "all who are called beloved of God". That includes any man who professes to be following Christ.

Throughout these summer months countless numbers of meetings will be held. Some of these will be successful, and some failures. If our meetings are failures, we, of the church, will be responsible and if they are a success and souls are brought to Christ, we will give the Master all praise, glory and credit.

Thus it should be!

Taken from the Truman, Ark. Bulletin of July 4, 1954.

The Catholic Shame

From the Christian Index, Georgia

The Roman Catholic church won for itself an election in New Jersey which reveals a new danger on the political horizon—and one where a leak in the dike warns of danger in the floods that may come.

The Catholics campaigned successfully for legalizing bingo and raffles. A Catholic pastor in Jersey City estimated that many Catholic churches would realize \$20,000 to \$50,000 extra income yearly from the games. A Catholic church was the first to get a license for the gambling.

What new crimes are to be committed in the name of charity? Don't dispute the fact that bingo and raffles are gambling. Else, why in New Jersey would they limit the games to the sponsorship of charity?

Will our Catholic friends now want to set up dice tables in their churches? Then, will we have church-sponsored days at the race tracks?

A church that needs gambling to support its ministry has no ministry worth supporting. Better would be the closing of its doors.

The Christ who drove the money changers from the temple will not tolerate the rolling of dice, the raf-

Church Worship

Marvin Ed Berry — Welcome Hill

We read of five kinds of worship in God's word, but only one is acceptable to Him.

1. Vain — Matt. 15:9.
2. Ignorant — Acts 17:23.
3. Will Worship — Col. 2:23.
4. Mock Worship — Mark 15:19-20.
5. True Worship — John 4:24.

True worship is the only worship acceptable to God and the passage does not read 'if we want to' but we 'must worship Him in truth and in spirit.'

We are taught by the word of God to meet on the first day of the week. Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2.

We are taught in worship to:

1. Teach — 1 Cor. 14:6-19.
2. Pray — Eph. 6:16; Phil. 4:6.
3. Sing — Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.
4. Eat the Lord's Supper — Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:16.
5. Contribute — 1 Cor. 16:2.

As to whom to worship, read John 4:23-24; Matt. 4:10; Rev. 14:7. What did Peter say when Cornelius tried to worship him? Acts 10:25-26.

WELCOME HILL NEWS

Our summer meeting is now past and we had three restorations. Mr. and Mrs. Ike Dawson and Mrs. Henry Couch, all of Camp. We are very happy to have them back in the fold again. We all enjoyed having Bro. and Sis. Bingham with us.

We have met at Camp with the members there four Sunday afternoons, and will soon be starting our mission meeting there. We urge all who can to attend the meeting and to encourage the few there.

We are now having a monthly teachers and elders meeting and are discussing problems and teaching aid for classes. Later we hope to make this a mens training class.

PILOT NEWS

The meeting closed Sunday night, July 4 with one baptism. Bro. C. Ray Miller preached some wonderful sermons to both the church and the world.

MAMMOTH SPRING

Five have been baptized in our regular services the last three Lord's days. Many more need to follow their example. We continue to pray, labor, and hope. We hope soon to increase our radio time on station KALM. Listen each Lord's day morning at 9 o'clock. This program is divided between us and the Thayer church.

fling of prizes and the like in His name.