

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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News Items

NEW PREACHER FOR ASH FLAT

The Cause of Christ in this area received a big boost when the church at Ash Flat obtained the services of Bro. Don Smith as their regular minister. Don is known by many throughout this area. He has written articles for the paper, and also was on the radio program for some time. We welcome Don to the work in this part of the country, and pray that the Lord will bless the work in Ash Flat.

We only wish that it was possible for many other congregations to have a full time preacher. The church at Ash Flat is to be commended for their action. The Lord will bless their efforts to further serve Him. The church there is active in helping further the Lord's Cause by helping with the publication of this paper, and also with the daily radio program over K A L M and K A M S.

Don previously preached for the church in Hardy, Ark. and Thayer, Mo. Once again we welcome him as a fellow-helper in preaching the gospel.

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Many preachers of South Central Missouri assembled in West Plains, Mo. during the past month for a discussion of ways and means to further the Lord's work. Bro. Hylton was there from Mammoth Spring. Henry Casey from Mountain View, Mo., Merrett Youngblood, Rogersville, Mo., Lynn Hixon from Ava, Mo., and many others that can't be recalled to mind right off. Bro. Levern Stewart was also present, and guided the morning discussion. He had to leave for an engagement at 1:00. The evening discussion was very interesting. It concerned the problem of marriage and divorce, and young people who marry non-christians.

Viola, Six Years Later

Clovis Ragsdale

I had the privilege of visiting the church at Viola on the fifth Sunday in November, and preached at both the morning and evening service. The church at Viola was established in 1953 after a meeting was held under a tent by brother Boyd Morgan. In 1954 the new building was erected and further improvements have been made from time to time. Today it is one of the best church buildings in this area. The attendance has averaged around fifty each Lord's Day for the past six years. Interest and contributions have increased from the very beginning. Two and three revival meetings have been held each year. Although growth in numbers has been slow, several have been added to the church during the meetings and several have moved to other towns and are faithful christians today. The need for a full time preacher is recognized by these brethren and hopes are high that something can be done about this problem in the near future.

To all who had a part in this work I think I can safely say that our efforts were not in vain. That souls are being saved as a result and that the future is bright that more will be saved in the future as a result of the effort that was put forth at Viola. Every congregation in Fulton County had a part in this work as well as several from Oklahoma and Missouri.

The success of this effort should encourage us in the new work that is being started at Winona, Mo. In some ways the need of a church in this place is much greater even than it was at Viola. The nearest church is twenty miles away and there are several towns near by which have no New Testament church. The work promises to be more difficult and will require greater sacrifices if it is to be succeed. We hope to be able to announce further news of this effort as time passes. We

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Church of Christ, Wheeling, Ark.	\$10.00
Vernon Cox, Mt. Home, Ark.	1.00
Jane M. Gibney, Alton, Mo.	1.00
Church of Christ, Salem, Ark.	5.00
D. D. Collier, Hardy, Ark.	2.00
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John Carter, Viola, Ark.	1.00
A Sister In Christ, Viola, Ark.	1.00
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Church of Christ, Salem, Ark.	5.00
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Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Brawley, Winona, Mo.	1.00
Mrs. Ermen McGibney, Alton, Mo.	1.00
Mrs. H. C. Risner, West Plains, Mo.	1.00

Due to increased interest our mailing list continues to grow each month. This means additional expense. Your wonderful response makes it possible for this added effort. May God wonderfully bless you throughout this New Year.

need to keep in mind the statement of Isaiah 55:11; So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. It is the duty of God's people today to send forth this word and we have the assurance it will not be in vain.

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Wesley Hylton

The Dawn Of A New Year

Wesley Hylton

By the time you receive this issue another New Year will have rolled around. The beginning of a New Year presents many new challenges. We will probably see new faces, new places, and face many new situations. This will afford us an opportunity to make new friends, and enjoy new scenery. It will also make it possible for us to become stronger in Christ by overcoming the temptations that will come our way during the New Year.

If you haven't done so before, why not determine to begin a new life with the New Year. Those who have never become Christians cannot realize what they are missing. A richer, fuller life is yours by doing the Lord's will, and beginning anew. Maybe you have been intending to do something about your soul, and where you will spend eternity. Why not do it now! Start the New Year as a new creature in Christ. Do the Lord's will now! "Procrastination is the thief of time." You may never face another New Year with the wonderful opportunity you have now.

To Christians, the New Year should present a great challenge. Are we better servants now than a year ago? If not, we should determine to grow spiritually. We should resolve to do more, give more and attend services more often. If the church is to prosper during the coming year, we will have to do more than we did last year. Let's do our part! The world is watching. The only sermon that many will read or hear during the

coming year is our life; what we say, the way we say it, and what we do. At the appointed time for services, we should be there, unless providentially hindered. Not only should we be interested in bettering our own lot in Christianity, but we should be concerned about others.

Here is a good resolution. Resolve to help other congregations when possible. Attend their meetings and other services when it doesn't conflict with services in the home congregation. There are many small congregations in this area that need encouragement. Your presence will help a lot. Several years ago many were more zealous to do this, but in recent years, the tendency is to let every fellow root for himself. Think for a moment; why not change? Could it be selfishness on our part? God forbid! We are all members of the same family. Therefore, we should be ready to visit and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Resolve to visit the elderly more during the New Year. Many of our older members are confined to their homes, and in many cases to bed. They need our words of comfort and encouragement. We too will some day be old. Then we will be anxious for others to think of us. Remember the Lord inspired these words; "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." If we sow disregard for the old folks, we will reap the same.

Set yourselves a goal for this year, and then work to reach it. Here is a good suggestion. Resolve to win at least one soul to Christ during the coming months. You can do it! Above all, don't start the year with a defeatist attitude!

"I can't" is the language of defeat. There are quiet a number of people who are out of duty. People who have obeyed the gospel, and then returned to the world. Perhaps you could be instrumental in winning one of them back to the Lord.

This would be a good resolution for many; resolve not to be late for services, unless it is unavoidable. Some are habitually late. Others are careless and negligent. They don't watch the time. Coming in late disrupts the services. So let's make up our mind to always be on time.

Putting away bad habits is another good idea. Determine not to say anything you wouldn't want to speak to

Christ in person. This would eliminate foul words, dirty jokes, or anything unbecoming a Christian. Angry words, jealousy, covetousness, and other things of like nature can become bad habits. They should be discarded. Since we are only human we will continue to make mistakes. However, when we do slip; do something we shouldn't, by all means don't give up. Be more determined than ever to succeed. Say to yourself: "Am I too weak to overcome this thing?" We all like to think we can do anything we set our mind to. And usually we do.

A Second Look At The Book of Job

Bob Hilburn (No. 5) Hardy, Ark.

In the four previous articles under the above heading we have studied some of the outstanding scientific facts which God inspired Job to write down. We have studied the process of CHLOROPHYL; (Job 8:16) the VOID PLACE IN THE NORTH; (Job 3:16) the fact that the EARTH HANGS UNSUPPORTED IN SPACE; (Job 26:7) the WEIGHT OF THE WIND; (Job 28:25) the WEIGHT AND MEASURE OF WATERS; (Job 28:25) and THE GREAT OIL DEPOSITS OF THE EARTH. (Job 29:6)

In this the fifth and final article in this series, we invite you to first turn to Job 23:1-4. Job had filled his mouth with arguments and was going to approach God and plead his case before him. In the 38th chapter of Job, Job asks him some questions to test his knowledge and understanding of the earth. Here God wants to show the weakness of man's position to question and argue with him. In verses 4-5, God asks Job where he was when he laid the FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH, and WHO LAID THE MEASURE THEREOF. Truly the earth does not have it's size by a mere accident. Today it is a known fact of science that the earth was measured to care for the different types of plants and animals which inhabit it. If this planet was ONE THIRD LARGER, it would be too hot for living things to exist; whereas if it was ONE THIRD SMALLER, it's surface would be covered with ice and too cold to support life. The size of the earth is just right to give us the right length of growing seasons for our plants. If it was either larger or smaller this would not be so.

In Job 38:7, God speaks of the **MORNING STARS TOGETHER**. For many centuries the wisdom of this world scoffed at such an idea, but recently it was discovered that the rays of light **DO** have musical qualities. Pilots have returned from high altitudes with reports of musical sounds, some even in four part harmony. How would Job have written this 3475 years ago if he was not inspired of God???

Again God questioned Job, "**HAST THOU ENTERED INTO THE SPRINGS OF THE SEAS?**" (Job 38:16) These springs denote depth and channels forming paths across the bottoms of the seas. David spoke of these path in Psalms 8:8, and it was this passage that caused Matthew Fontaine Maury to arise from his bed and go in search of these paths. As a result of his charts, the same routes are used today by all ocean-going vessels. How did Job and David know of these springs, channels and paths??? Do you suppose that Job had access to modern diving equipment to find these springs; or that David had ready use of depth equipment to find these paths?? The question is before you and the only sensible answer is that God inspired them in their writing.

There are scores of references from the book of Job and from other books of the Bible which prove beyond doubt it's inspiration. While men considered the earth to be flat and square, God spoke of the **CIRCLE OF THE EARTH**. (Job 8:27) (Isa. 40:22). The ancients who considered the number of the stars to be around 3,999, needed only to read Gen. 15:5 where they are referred to as innumerable. Job was questioned as to what holds the sea into place. (Job 38: 8-11). He did not know! Men today have many theories but they still do not know why all the waters run into the seas and they are not full, why the sea is higher in the middle than at the edges and yet does not run over.

Job did not understand these things yet he wrote them down. He could not have guessed and been absolutely right in every point, thus it must be that he, along with the other writers of the Bible was inspired as he wrote. Who inspired them?? **GOD!** Considering all of this my friends, I, along with David, say, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." (Psa. 14:1).

What Is The Church

By O. L. Grisham

To find out what the Church is, it will be good to consider what the Church is not. (1) The Church is not a temporal building with its beautiful decorations, stained glass windows, great steeple, soft carpeted floors, nice comfortable seats, and an ornamental pulpit where the preacher stands.

(2) The Church is not a denomination wearing just any name. Never is it named after any other, but Christ or God; the scriptural name for the church is found in Rom. 16:16, Acts 20:28.

(3) The Church is not divided into over 300 different groups, each one teaching different doctrines. Most of those doctrines contray to the Bible. There is only one way spoken of in the Bible, Isa. 35:8, Matt. 7:13,14. The Church that the Lord built could not be such, seeing the Bible speaks of only one church.

(4) Just because a people claims to be the church, yet follows not the teachings and practices of the early church, doesn't mean that it is the church Christ built, because any name by which a church is called, that we can't read in the Bible, is unscriptural.

We have discussed what the church is not about, now let us discuss what the church is.

(1) The Church is a divine institution built by our Lord. In Matt. 16:13-18 we read where our Lord asked His disciples who they thought He was. Their opinions were many. But Peter said "thou art the Christ the son of the living God." Jesus blessed him for this confession, and said in Verse 18, "upon this rock I will build my Church." The church then belongs to Christ.

On the day of pentecose (Acts 2:38-47) Peter preached the good news of Jesus Christ. He told them to repent and be baptized. About 3000 were obedient to that command, "and the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved." Verse 47. Question: which Church did he add them to?

(2) Also the Lord's church is the spiritual Kingdom, Paul says in Col. 1:13, "God hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of his," or God's dear son. Therefore the Kingdom belongs to Christ. Question: How could God translate into a Kingdom that doesn't exist?

Rev. 1:9 John said he was in the King-

dom of Jesus Christ: Question: How could he have been in a Kingdom which the world says does not exist? The Lord is King of the Kingdom, Rev. 17:14, and it is a spiritual Kingdom. Luke 17:20-21.

(3) We find in the Bible the church is referred to as The house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth, 1 Tim. 3:15. The household of God is built upon the great foundation which is the prophets and apostles, Christ Jesus being the chief cornerstone, or head, Eph. 2:19-20.

(4) We have stated in the foregoing that the Church is a spiritual organization. We read in Acts 2:38-47 an example of souls being saved, 3000 were added to the church by the Lord. The church is made up of Baptized believers, because they that were added were baptized.

We find many other examples of such conversions. Is it not reasonable to believe that if one repents and is baptized that the Lord will add him to His church even today? The Lord does not leave that to men. They say, join the church of your choice.

Yes the Lord built His church, bought it with his own blood, Acts 20:28, Eph. 5:25 and He adds to His church and not to some man made institution. Can man ever build such a church as did the Lord?

Does not the Bible teach us there is only one church or body, Eph. 1:22-23? Paul an inspired man of God, said, There is one God, one Lord. We all believe this to be true. The same man said there is one body or church, the church and body being the same. If we believe the Bible, we cannot say the Lord bought over 300 different bodies when the Bible say there is only one, Eph. 4:1-4. The Lord prayed for his followers, (John 17:17-23). Can we be united in one body, if we separate into 300 different beliefs or churches?

The church the Lord built is a spiritual institution. Heb. 12:22-23. "Ye are come into Mount Zion unto the city of the living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem to an innumerable company of angels to the general assemblage and church of the first born, which are written in heaven", yes, when one is added by the Lord to the church, his name is written in heaven, and not on some church book.

If one has repented of his sins, and been buried with the Lord in baptism, then he is a member of Christ's church, just a Christian, nothing more or nothing less.

We extend to all a cordial invitation to meet with us in worship.

Giving

Henry Casey

I believe that this subject of GIVING is neglected both in teaching and practice. The average preacher may fail to teach on this subject because he has the fear of being criticized and accused of trying to get his wages raised. But I feel sure that no gospel preacher will preach on giving for a selfish reason of his own.

The Bible says that giving is part of the gospel. Therefore it is to be preached, believed and practiced. The Bible further teaches that Christians must practice what they preach. In (1 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 9:6-7) the Bible relates to us an example of the early Christians and their problem of church finance. It is an evident fact that any group of people must have some kind of financial system in order for them to function properly. The Bible tells us that Jesus and His twelve followers had a financial system, Judas being the treasurer, (John ch. 12 and ch. 13). It has been said that a Christian has two distinctive marks by which you can identify him that is by his giving and forgiving.

It is a common thing to hear some good brother say, "Just how much should I give?" The answer to this question should come about by much thinking and studying and praying. The Bible doesn't say upon the first day of the week let every man give one or two dollars or even a tenth, but it does say that you and I are to give as we are prospered. If you buy a horse for \$75.00 and the expense in selling the horse is \$25.00 and that same week you sell the horse for \$200.00 then you have prospered not \$200.00 but \$100.00 God tells us to give as we have been prospered. Now out of this \$100.00 should we first go and pay the house rent, car payment, tax bill, grocery bill, insurance bill and all other bills, then on Sunday morning say, "Lord I just have this dollar bill for you." Jesus knew people would love money (1 Tim. 6:10). Therefore He said (in Mt. 6:33) seek ye first the kingdom, or church, and all the material things will be added. But some good brother or sister quotes (1 Tim. 5:8) this is done to ease their conscience. Always remember that the Bible says if we will seek first the church, and that also means in giv-

ing, we won't have to worry about the material things.

I want to close with a few questions for you to consider: Do you always take the Lord's money out of your paycheck before you pay all of your other bills, if not, why not? Do you give more than those people that were under the leadership of Moses, if not, why not? Do you want the Lord to say on that great day that your money is going to perish with you? (Acts 8:20) Do you believe (Lk. 12:16-21, Job 1:21, and 1 Tim. 6:7).

My prayer brethren is this that we may quit our penny pinching and give like we have never given before. We have it, therefore let us use it, because the Bible says that is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35).

Decide Today

Men need to serve God now. There is danger in delay. Yet, week after week otherwise good people put off serving Him. Perhaps the most common sin among us today is the fact men are trying to live apart from God.

While mothers and fathers wait, their children are growing up and leaving home without the encouragement and example of faithful Christian parents. Realizing that opportunities are gone will be no comfort to the heavy hearts of parents later on. The day will come when we would give nearly anything to know our children are faithful Christians. There is only one time to train children and that is while they are still young. It is too late to bring them up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" later on.

Jesus invites today. We must take up the cross. There is nothing promised for good intentions. How many today who are promising themselves they will begin to do better in just a little while will die and be lost forever only God knows. It need not be this way with any of us, but it will be unless we resolve to do something about it now.

Paul said, "... now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." There is no promise of another year or another week. We must not count on time (Jas. 4:13-15). Once opportunities are past they are gone forever. Why not resolve right now to obey God and serve Him faithfully? Worship with us daily and Sunday.

Preeminence

Clovis Ragsdale

In the third epistle of John we are told of a man, Diotrephes by name, who loved to have preeminence. He refused to accept Paul as an Apostle and would not accept the letter of Paul. The Apostles were guilty of the same attitude for they desired to have a high position in the Kingdom, Luke 22: 24, and there was strife among them, which should be accounted the greatest. Christ went to some length to explain to his Apostles, as they were gathered for the Passover Supper, that followers of Christ were to be servants, not Lords. Christ illustrated the lesson of humility by washing the feet of his Apostles, much to their consternation. The thirteenth chapter of John gives the details of this lesson.

Some people today have not learned this lesson and are striving to gain preeminence in the church. Many times strife in congregations is caused by one or a few trying to get upper hand in directing the affairs of the church. The "rule or ruin" complex in some people makes it hard for the humble, Godly, elder or leader to carry on the work of the church. The church is no place for those seeking honor and position to establish themselves. Christian service is an humble service. Humility was one of the outstanding traits of the Lord. Because of this the Pharisees and Scribes were unable to recognize him as the Messiah. Christ told the twelve that if any man desired to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all. Mark 9:35. In the sermon on the Mount, the Lord said, "blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."

News Items

The folks a Winona, Mo. are encouraged over the prospects of firmly establishing the Cause there. Bro. Clovis Ragsdale was with them the second Sunday in December. Bro. Henry Casey is with them two Sunday's a month. Plans are in the making to help them with a building of their own. Several have expressed an interest in helping them. Tell the elders or leaders of the congregation where you attend about the work there. They may be interested in helping too. More details will be given in future issues of the paper.