

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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"The Churches of Christ Salute You"
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Mammoth Spring, Ark,
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JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH Orbie Robbins...Elizabeth, Ark.

That the Bible teaches justification by faith, is evident from the following scriptures; "Being therefore justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 5;1 "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God, must believe that he is and, that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" Heb. 11;6 Justification by faith is a Bible doctrine, but when the words only or alone is added the truth is perverted. One doctrine teaches that faith only is a very wholesome doctrine and full of comfort, another teaches that we are saved solely through faith. If these doctrines were true, devils would be saved-Jas. 2;19 The expression faith only occurs one time in the New Testament James said, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified and not by faith only". Jas. 2;24 Again, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." Jas. 2;26 In order to learn how, when and where we are justified by faith let us consider the following. How is faith produced? "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10;17 With this truth before us, we see that in the absence of divine testimony there is no faith. Anything which we might teach or practice in the name of religion unless taught by the word of God is not of faith and would be based on human opinion.

The Bible teaches one faith Eph. 4:5 but this one faith can be possessed in different measures or degrees. A dead faith, weak faith, vain faith, or faith without works. These will never raise one from the low levels of sin to the high plane of justification. Then let us consider the measure of faith which does justify. "In Christ Jesus neither circumcision or uncircumcision availeth anything but faith which worketh by love." Gal. 5;6 John said, "This is the love of God that we keep his commandments and his commandments are not grievous to bear." 1 Jno. 5;3 Faith must express itself in obedience to God in order to justify. God has never blessed any individual until their faith expressed itself in some act or acts that he commanded. The measure of faith which works by love and will lead to justification will lead us to obey God without raising the question "Why?" This is illustrated in God's trial of Abraham's faith, "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac." Heb. 11;17 Abraham's faith expressed itself in complete obedience by offering his son as a sacrifice on Mt. Mariah, and he never raised the question of why? James said with reference to this example of faith "Was not Abraham our fathers justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?" Jas. 2: 21 The time of his justification was fixed until after his faith obeyed. Again the measure of faith justifies will lead us to do whatsoever, the Lord has com-

manded even though there is no logical connection from the standpoint of human reason. This principle is demonstrated in the fall of the walls of the city of Jericho-Josh. 6 The writer of the Hebrew letter said, "by faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about 7 days." Heb. 11;30

Joshua was instructed to take the children of Israel and march around the city once each day for a period of 6 days and the 7th day to march around it 7 times; the priests were to blow upon the trumpets; the people were to give a loud shout; and God said the walls would fall down. Now from the standpoint of human reason those instructions would appear foolish. No military officers would suggest a plan of that kind for taking a strongly fortified city. But what happened in this case? Heb. 11;30 states, "By faith the walls of Jericho fell." But they fell after their faith expressed itself in complete obedience to God's requirements. Now when and where are we justified by faith? Not at the point of faith only -because the Lord said repent or perish Lk. 13;3 Confession is required... Mt. 10;32-33, and baptism Mk. 16;16- Justification and salvation from past sins are closely related. Paul states that salvation is in Christ 2 Tim. 2;10. Therefore justification is in Christ, but we are baptized into Christ Gal. 3;26-27, Rom 6;3 So every act of obedience necessary to get into Christ would be included in justification by

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Fulton County Gospel News
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Boyd E. Morgan

EDITORIAL

The season of big meetings is here. They will be big indeed if each of us will cooperate. Big meetings are not the only means of saving souls, but they are one means. Meetings will be useful so long as the gospel is preached. It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. We will now spend much time and money in these services. It is our business to see that neither is wasted. Make your plans now to be with your local congregation in its meeting. Let nothing beyond providence hinder. Be present. Your presence will encourage the preacher and the brethren. Remember that the primary purpose of the meeting is to save souls. Search among your acquaintances and select those nearest, in your opinion, to obeying the truth. Call for them on your way to church. If refused once, try again and again. Surely you have some sinner friend whom you can influence to take with you. If you do not have, likely enough you are not living right.

Invite the preacher into your home. Preachers are just human.

They eat what you eat and have the same appreciation that you have. Take them [do not send them] over to talk to your sinner friends. Personal work is as powerful as the pulpit. You will be blessed by your own association with the preacher. What's wrong with you keeping the preacher some anyway?

Meet all visitors. Learn their names. They are interested or they would not be there. When you see them later, away from the church house, remind them that you appreciated their presence and that they are always welcome. Never embarrass visitors in anyway. You may invite them up front but if they can hear in the back and want to sit there, give them room.

Sing. Pray. Be optimistic. Never be a pessimist. Never say, it's wasted time. It won't do any good. The meeting will, but the saying won't. The word of God will not return unto him void.

Visit other congregations. They will visit your meeting and lend you the blessing of their presence. We all go up and down together anyway. Any good meeting in the Lord's church will help your home congregation.

Have something to give for the meeting. It will be your part in a good work. Besides, you will want your investment to be successful.

Somebody's going to be converted this summer. Somebody's going to be responsible. Some Andrew will lead Some Peter to Christ. Someone will have fruit to show unto God in the judgment. Will it be you? Why not? It is within your power.

Lets do more, save more souls, give more, have more and be

more in 1954 than ever before.
Boyd E. Morgan.

Acts 20:7

Again, recently around Mammoth Spring, we have been hearing of the teaching that Acts 20:7 does not refer to the Lord's Supper.

Some men expect the fact that they have said a 'thing is so' to be sufficient proof to all men. They want to be oracles and want men to expect them to be such. We invite these teachers to defend their teaching. We can and are ready to prove to all men that Acts 20:7 does refer to the Lord's Supper. Furthermore, all scholars and commentators we have found regardless of religious affiliations have agreed it does. We wonder if this person is willing to test his scholarship. Talk is cheap and worthless. Proof is another thing.

We, therefore, submit the following proposition for gentlemanly discussion:

"Acts 20:7 does refer to the Lord's Supper."

Affirmed; Boyd E. Morgan

Denied:

Now we shall see what we shall see. Funny though as soon as a man's hand is caded, regardless of how much he teaches a thing, that suddenly he doesn't believe in debates or arguing. If we took his positions, we wouldn't either.

Boyd E. Morgan

DECORATION NOTICE

Services will be held by brethren of the church at Saddle Cemetery, Saddle, Ark. Sunday morning, May 23. Bro. Boyd Morgan will preach.

HOW TO PRAY

By Marion Farley...Jonesboro, Arkansas

One of Christ disciples in (Lk. 11) asked him to teach them to pray as John the Baptist had taught his disciples. Jesus warned them not to pray to be seen of men, lest their petitions be not answered. Part of this prayer as others, had its limitations.

When he told them to pray "Thy kingdom come," it had not been as yet, established, but was on the first Pentecost after his resurrection, so, we need no longer pray for this.

Also, at another time, having the destruction of Jerusalem with it's terribleness in mind, he told them to pray that their flight be not in the winter. This would also be useless now. Neither are we to use vain repetitions, as the heathens do but are told to pray with the spirit and the understanding" (1 Cor. 1:15).

Peter, being amazed because the fig tree withered so soon after Jesus placed the curse upon, it, mentioned this to the Saviour. He was told great things would be done for those who prayed in faith. For said he, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them."

On another occasion Jesus tried to impress the power and necessity of prayer in their minds, when he, Peter James and John came down from the Mountain after his transfiguration, and a child that was dreadfully afflicted, was brought to him, which could not be healed by the other disciples, he said to them "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." It has been justly said "Man's extremity is God's opportunity" which simply means when we do all we can, then,

and not until then, need we expect God's help.

When Christ told his disciples to pray for their daily bread he did not mean they could sit down and do nothing, and everything necessary for the sustenance of their bodies would be brought to them. Paul said he was not a "Whit behind the chiefest Apostles," and yet he didn't rely solely on God to provide him with the necessities of life, but labored at his trade of tent making that he might have food and clothing. He also commanded that if any "Would not work, neither should he eat." There are many things we need to pray for and then work to the end.

We are taught to pray for our enemies. Then, we should try to make them our friends by returning good for evil. When we pray that his "Will be done in earth as it is in heaven," then it is our duty to try to save the lost. God is "Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." He has, chosen through "The foolishness of preaching, to save them that believe." "How shall they believe in whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher." We can readily see that we have a grave responsibility resting upon us.

We believe in prayer for the sick, but we also believe we are required to use all means at our disposal to alleviate suffering. Jesus taught that the sick needs a physician.

These should be sufficient to show us that God expects his children to seek his blessings through the avenue of prayer, but that he also expects his followers to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling"

and pray as did Jesus "Thy will be done and not mine."

UNDENOMINATIONAL

The Church of Christ is an undenominational institution, When we say undenominational, we do not mean all-denominational, Some men who claim to be undenominational are in reality all denomination. They are all-denominational in that they look with favor upon all denominations, The Church of Christ is undenominational in that it is not a denomination and that it stands opposed to denominationism.

--Denominationalism--

1. Many bodies or churches.
2. Founded by men.
3. Human heads.
4. Human creeds.
5. Wear human names.
6. Follow men.
7. A multiplicity of churches unknown to the bible.
8. Membership in denominations is not essential to salvation
9. Preach many gospels.
10. Rewrite creeds ever few years.
11. Many faiths.
12. Many baptisms.
13. Join church.
14. Claim to be abiding in branches of the church.
15. Walk by different rules.
16. Thank God in their prayers for so many churches.

-Undenominational Christianity-

1. One body or church. Matt. 16:18 I Cor. 12:20.
2. Founded by Christ. Matt. 16:18.
3. Christ the head Eph 1, 22 23
4. Bible as only creed II Tim. 3:16,17.

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Undenominational...

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5. Glorify God in the name of Christian 1 Pet. 4:16.
- 6 Following men is condemned 1 Cor 1:10, 13.
- 7, Mentioned in the bible. Rom. 16:16,
8. Membership in Christ's church is essential to salvation. Eph, 5:23.
9. If man preach any other gospel he is condemned. Gal 1:8,9
10. Bible remains the same. Matt, 24:35.
11. One faith Eph 4:5,
- 12, One baptism Eph 4:5
13. God adds to the church. Acts 2:47.
- 14, Jesus said "Abide in Me," the true vine. Jno. 15:16.
15. Walk by the same rule, Phil 3:16.
16. Jesus prayed for one-ness Jno 17: 20, 21

Marvin Ed Berry
Welcome Hill

DEDICATION DAY

JUNE 6

Viola Church of Christ

All Day Services

Preaching 10 a. m. and 11 a. m.

Special Song Service 2 p.m.

Preaching 3 p. m.

Basket Dinner

You Are All Invited

Meeting Schedule

Preachers	Place	Date
Harlan Hurd	Thayer, Mo,	May 23, June 1
Foyd E. Morgan	Brandsville, Mo.	May 23-June 1
Lowell Blasingame	Worth, Ark;	May 30-June 8
H. F. Sharp	Rickory Grove, Mo.	June 1-10
G. W. Bingham,	Welcome Hill	June 4-June 13
Riley Henry	West Plains, Mo.	June 6-June 15
Lowell Blasingame	English Bluff	June 9-June 18
Elmo Hall	Union Hill	June 18-June 30

We are happy to announce the moving of Bro. Joe Pruett to Thayer, Mo. to serve them in the capacity of a local minister of the gospel. With his labors and the vision of the brethren there the cause of the Lord cannot help but progress. We are elsewhere in this paper featuring an article

by Bro. Pruett. He welcomes you to call upon him for any services incumbent upon a minister of the gospel. Listen to radio station KALM each Lord's day morning at nine o' clock. Bro. Pruett will speak on alternate programs with Bro. Morgan.



Bro. Joe Pruett

THE QUALIFYING RULES

Joe Pruett, Thayer, Mo.

In New Testament times the Olympic races were a common sport. There were certain qualifications to be met before an individual could qualify for entry. The candidate realized that a failure to obey the qualifying rules would keep him from running. Hence, he would not have a chance to win the crown. Just as there were rules pending entry into the Olympic races, there are rules pending entry into the Christian race. These rules must be obeyed before one can qualify to enter.

RULE I.. Hear the Gospel— The gospel is the 'power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.' [Rom. 1:16] One must hear the gospel before it can produce anything. (Rom. 10; 17) After the people on Pentecost heard (Acts 2:37-41) they were baptized. These people obeyed the first rule, have you?

RULE II.. Believe the Gospel Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6) When the Lord commissioned his disciples, he charged them to "preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:15-16) After Philip preached "Jesus" to the Ethiopian eunuch, he expressed his faith in Christ and was baptized. [Acts 8:37] Here is a man's testimony of his faith in that which he had heard. He obeyed the first two rules, have you?

RULE III.. Repent of Sins— Repentance is more than Godly sorrow. (II Cor. 7:8-10) It is a complete reformation of one's life. [Matt. 21:28-29] Jesus made repentance necessary in Luke 13;

3, 5, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." The people on Pentecost were told to "Repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins". [Acts 2:38] In vs. 41, they obeyed, have you?

RULE IV Confess Christ— This confession is to be made with the mouth. (Rom. 10:10) It is to be made before men. (Matt. 10:32) The Ethiopian eunuch set the example for us to follow in Acts 8:35-39. He obeyed, have you?

RULE V.. Be Baptized.. Paul says there is one baptism, [Eph. 4:5] which is a burial. (Rom. 6; 3-5, Col. 2:12) This baptism is necessary to salvation because it is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and without it, the soul of man is lost. [Mk. 16:15-16] Jesus said to Nicodemus "Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God" (Jno. 3:3, 5) When the eunuch heard the gospel, he demanded baptism. His baptism (Acts 8) was the one described by Paul in Rom. 6. He entered the race, have you?

Baptism is again necessary to salvation because it puts one into Christ or into the Christian race. (Gal. 3:26-27, Rom. 6:3-5)

An athlete must obey every rule in the book before he can be qualified to run. Disobedience to one rule will disqualify him. You, as a Christian athlete, must obey every rule in God's rule book or you will be disqualified. You will have lost the privilege to win an incorruptible crown. (II Cor. 9 24-25)

When one enters the Christian race, he is encouraged to run with patience, always looking to Jesus. [Heb. 12:1-2] Though he has met the qualifying rules, his crown is not won. He must obey the rules governing those in the

race. [II Pet. 1:5-11] He can be disqualified for disobedience to these rules as well as the qualifying rules.

If you haven't obeyed the qualifying rules, do it now, so you may run the Christian race. Keep your eye on the goal and run so at the end of the race you can say as Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness. (II Tim. 4:7-8)

NEWS

During the past month eight have been baptized and two restored at Salem.

Two have been baptized and one restored at Thayer.

The Pilot cemetery decoration services will be held Sunday May 16 Bro. Clovis Ragsdale will preach at the Church of Christ there in the morning. Basket dinner at noon and singing in the afternoon.

Our sympathies are extended to Bro. Joe H. Blue and family who laid their loved one, Sister Mary Blue, away to rest in Jesus April 26. Sister Blue has served the Lord faithfully during her life and been a pillar of strength to the cause, her husband, and gospel preachers She hath done that she could.

Bro. Caleb Weaver departed this life and was laid to rest April 27. He will be remembered for his services to the kingdom of Christ as leader and teacher of gospel singing. Our sympathies are given to his family of loved ones who together with us all mourn his passing.

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

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faith. Repentance is faith working, confession is faith speaking, baptism is faith submitting. Therefore when our faith expresses itself in every act of gospel obedience as mentioned above we have the assurance of God's Word that we have been justified by faith, saved from past and alien sins. Then we must continue faithful in worship and practice until we come to the end of the way. Rev. 2:10 Rev. 22:14, Heb. 5:89

SIN

Clovis Ragadale—Moten

From the first transgression in the garden of Eden until the hour this article is read, sin has abounded in all parts of the earth where men lived. The sins of each generation are so numerous that it is beyond the comprehension of the minds of men to enumerate them. It is solemnizing to realize that God knows them all.

Sin is either a thought, a word, an action, an omission, or a desire, which is contrary to the will of God. Before the death of Jesus, men lived under the burden of sin with no way of completely relieving themselves of this burden. It is true, that the Jews, as God's chosen people, were able to roll their sins forward from year to year, but the shadow of their sins were ever hanging over them. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin, Heb. 10:4

With the shedding of the Saviour's blood a new era was ushered into being. Now, the sins of men could be washed away by the blood of Christ. Now, men could be made free from their

sins. Act. 3:19. These sins, when forgiven, would be remembered no more forever.

During this new dispensation of time many have availed themselves of this opportunity to be free from sin. This they have done by complying with the will of Christ, which is, briefly; believing, repenting, confessing Christ, and being baptized.

After one becomes a Christian some will say it is impossible to sin. Rom 6:2 is used to support this belief. It says, "How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" Paul here is showing the Roman brethren [many of them had been recently converted from paganism] that a change of life had taken place in them. They were now dead to the old life in which they had served sin. Now they were alive unto the new life and should not sin. Rom. 6:17, 18. The wages of sin is death as he continued to tell them, Rom. 6:23.

The Bible teaches that Christians can sin. The apostle John, in writing to Christians in I John 1:8, 10 makes it plain that, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." In verse eight and again in verse ten, he points out that if we say we have no sin, we are in fact committing sin in making the statement.

Christians are warned in I Pet. 5:8 to be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. If we believed that we could not sin it would cause us to lower our

guard and be an easy prey for our adversary the devil.

God knew we were prone to sin so he gave us a way out. I John 2:1 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." In striving to be Christlike we are to go on unto perfection, just as Christ, who is our perfect example, was sinless, yet it is hardly possible that we can attain that perfection until we have been taken up into that new home where all will be perfect. That home is heaven.

WELCOME HILL NEWS

Our Gospel Meeting starts the 4th of June and continue to June 14, Mr. G. W. Bingham from Buckner, Ill. will do the preaching.

We have purchased some visual aid for our Bible classes. We have flannel boards, charts, and some Bible maps. We have divided one of our classes. We now have four different classes on Sunday morning.

If you are not attending the Lord's church somewhere we invite you to come and bring your children.

We now have classes for all ages. Classes begin at ten o'clock.

Charlie Cavin preaches the third Sunday.

Some folks say that once you are saved, then nothing you do will send you to hell, or once saved, always saved. God, however, doesn't talk like some folks. He says "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done; and there is no respect of persons" Col. 4:25.