

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Second Class Postage Paid at Mammoth Spring, Ark.

Volume 12

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554

November 1972

Number 23

The Wisdom of the Bible

An Infilling or a Filling In?

The Bible states in all its teachings the very infallible mind of God. It does not need to tell or say why it is expressed as it is for God is love, Truth, and the very essence of perfection. As the Bible states, God speaking, "I am that I am", is a statement that no mortal man can make. Man is in some ways different each day of his life but God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

The Bible states the very state of man from his very first existence, the present time, the future of man and his final destination. The Bible gives the way or plan of salvation for mankind depending upon man and his obedience to the will of God. Here again we find the kind of God telling through his word the way, the how, and the procedure man must follow if he ever expects to be in the presence of God after this life. The Bible contains the information concerning the sinner and his final doom. It contains the unsearchable riches of truth concerning the believer and his final destination. It lists the happiness, fellowship, the hope of eternal life for those who comply with its teachings.

The doctrines of the Bible are holy, infallible, and non-contradictory regardless of the efforts of man to dispute its statements. Its precepts are binding to all mankind and the history of the Bible is true. The facts and decisions of the Bible are immutable.

The contents of the Bible are for the benefit of mankind. We should read it to be wise in this life, believe it to make safe our destination, and practice it to secure the blessings of God and as a light to our fellowman. It is the Light that can and will direct our pathway in this life, it is food for the mind to dwell upon, and support of inward being. It holds words of comfort and cheer when all of man's words fail. It is the staff of the sojourner here on earth, the map for the weary traveler, a compass of the wanderer. It serves as a sword for the soldier of Christ and a chart for all Christians.

Jesus Christ is the supreme subject, the design is for the good of man, and the end is for the glory of God the supreme architect. It contains wisdom to guide our path, rule our heart and hands, and fill our minds with memories of the greatest event of all ages. We should read this

(Continued on Page 2)

The church of Christ has had its problems in the twentieth century. Sommerism and its "anti" Christian college views; the cup question; the class question; the premillennial question; the located preacher question; the cooperation question as it relates to churches and the Herald of Truth principle; and, today, the most potentially dangerous problem of all, the Holy Spirit question.

Since the discussion of the Holy Spirit through the pages of the Firm Foundation in 1966 and 1967 by J. D. Thomas, J. W. Roberts, and Foy E. Wallace, Jr., much has been said; not all of it for the good.

On the one hand there are many Christians, both young and old, who, in their study of the Holy Spirit have come to believe that the Holy Spirit can be prayed for and that He will come in to the person, take up residence, and work miracles (such as: "new" tongues, healings, and extra-revelational guidance); but, on the other hand there are many Christians, both young and old, who, in their study of the Holy Spirit, have come to believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian representatively and commensurately to the amount of Scripture known and obeyed by the Christian.

With these two views represented there is yet a third view which is represented by many Christians, both young and old, who, in their study of the Holy Spirit, have come to believe that the Holy Spirit cannot be invited to take up residence in a Christian by prayer, nor does He dwell in a Christian strictly tantamount to the Scripture known and obeyed—but, the Holy Spirit takes up an actual, literal residence as a Holy Guest in the Christian upon his being immersed, and that the Holy Spirit functions in the Christian not separate and apart from the Scripture, but in addition to the Scripture.

It seems to this writer that the first two views are far too extreme. (Cf. On the first view Pat Boone's, *A New Song* (Carol Stream, Ill.: Creation House, 1970), James D. Bales', Pat Boone and the Gift of Tongues (Searcy, Ark.: James D. Bales, 1970), and Jimmy Jividen's, *Glossolalia from God or Man* (Fort Worth, Tx.: Star Bible Pub., 1971). On

the second view Foy E. Wallace, Jr.'s, *The Mission and Medium of the Holy Spirit* (Foy E. Wallace, Jr., Pub., 1967). The third view seems to be the Biblical view. (Cf. James D. Bales', *The Holy Spirit and the Christian* (Shreveport, La.: Gussie Lambert Pub., 1966), J. W. Roberts', "The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit," Firm Foundation (Austin, Tx.: Firm Foundation Pub. House, Jan. 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 1967), and Roy H. Lanier Sr.'s, "The Spirit and the Word," Firm Foundation (Ibid., Nov. 10, 1970), p. 13, "The Holy Spirit," Firm Foundation (Ibid., Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26; Feb. 16, 1971).

It is Biblically evident that the Holy Spirit does actually dwell in a Christian: God gives to the obedient the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32); the seven men chosen to serve tables were men "full of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:3); "the Holy Spirit was given unto us" (Rm. 8:9, 11); "your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you" (I Cor. 6:19); Paul reminded the Galatians that they had "received the Spirit" (Gal. 4:6); "the Holy Spirit dwelleth in us" (II Tim. 1:14); God abideth in us, "by the Spirit which He gave us" (I Jh. 3:24); God "hath given us of His Spirit" (I Jh. 4:13; and Cf. Eph. 3:16, 20; 4:30; 6:18; Philip. 2:13; Col. 1:11, 29; and, Jude 20. The exact "how" the Holy Spirit dwells in a Christian is infinitely hidden. The functions of the Holy Spirit, however, are revealed: "the Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God" (Rm. 8:16); "by the Spirit ye put to death the deeds of the body" (Rm. 8:13); ye are "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13); the Holy Spirit is an "earnest of our inheritance" (Eph. 1:14); God abides in us, "by the Spirit" (I John 3:24; Eph. 2:22); and, The Holy Spirit produced spiritual fruit in the Christian's life. (Gal. 5:22, 23).

One cannot empirically know that the Holy Spirit dwells and operates in him, but he can Biblically know it! It has been the experience of this writer to talk with certain ones who believe in an empirical knowledge of the Spirit's indwelling and operation. They told this writer that there was nothing greater than the "infilling of the Holy Spirit". They commented further that their experience

(Continued on Page 4)

The Fulton County Gospel News

... is a monthly publication distributed free of charge to any who care to receive it. We will be happy to add any names to the regular mailing list. If you send in a name, be SURE to include the Zip Code Number. It must be with each address according to the Postal regulations. This paper is supported by unsolicited contributions for which we are grateful. If you care to know of its financial status and expenses, that information will be furnished upon request.

EDITORS: Erwin Cowen
and James E. Henley.

Faith in God

By Otis Gatewood

Faith in God is more than conviction that He exists. It is belief that He is active in my life.

I have never heard His voice verbally as did Moses, but God speaks to me more plainly and completely through the written message of His Word than He spake to Moses. I know and understand many things Moses never did.

God has never delivered me from the mouths of lions as He did Daniel, but daily He delivers me from temptations that are far more fierce than the most savage beasts.

God has never drowned my enemies as He did Pharaoh in the Red Sea, but error and workers of wickedness are overwhelmed in the truth I preach.

I have never seen God's hand write on a wall as did the Babylonian king, but His hand paints every flower and molds every cloud with such splendor that I know surely that I am weighed in the balances and found wanting.

God has never tested my faith in Him by commanding me to offer my son as a burnt sacrifice as He commanded Abraham, but He challenges me to train my children to be living sacrifices of service to Him.

God has never fed me with ravens as He did Elijah, but I feast daily upon the fellowship of the saints and dine at His table of goodness every moment of my life.

He has never promised me possessions of lands as far as I could see in all directions, nor has He said that He would increase my seed as the stars of heaven, but He has promised me an eternal home at His own right hand in a city with streets of gold; and those that I have converted to Him through the preaching

Are Men Today Receiving New Revelations From God;

If So What Would be Their Purpose?

WE HAVE ALL TRUTH

Jesus said to his apostles, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he shall shew you things to come", John 16:13. The truth (which we now have ALL, Acts 2:1-4) will make us free! We can purify our souls by obeying the truth, I Pet. 1:22. If we have ALL truth that is all we can receive! If we received something else it would not be truth!

WOULD GOD GIVE MAN ANOTHER GOSPEL?

Paul said that the Gospel was "God's power to save" man, and if the Gospel Paul had, would save man, why would God give us another? Paul also said, that if a man, or angel, preached any other Gospel than the one he preached, such a one would be cursed, Gal. 1:8-9. Where did Paul get the Gospel he preached? From Jesus Christ, Gal. 1:11-12. There is no other Gospel but the one Paul preached, Gal. 1:6-7.

DOES GOD WANT TO GIVE ONE MAN A DIFFERENT MESSAGE FROM OTHERS?

Peter said that, "God is no respecter of persons", Acts 10:34-35. Paul said the same, Romans 2:11. Can we depend on God to tell the truth? God "can not lie", Titus 1:2. Now, if a man receives a special revelation today, it is not from God! God is no respecter of persons and he can not lie, so if some one lies, it is not God!

THE REVELATION WE HAVE WILL MAKE US PERFECT

If the present revelation is what it says it is, we need no other. If it is not what it claims to be, we could not believe one that some man claims to have received! "All Scripture is given by 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", 2 Tim. 3:16-17. The revelation we now have is "perfect" (James 1:25) it furnishes us with every good work (so if a revelation today was

different it would not include GOOD WORKS, for we have ALL of them) and if kept perfectly it could make man perfect. If it is perfect it can not be changed without making it imperfect!

JUDE SAYS WE HAVE IT ALL NOW

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints", Jude 3. Faith comes from hearing God's word, Rom. 10:17. There is "one faith", Eph. 5:5 So when Jude speaks of "the" faith, it is the "one" faith which comes from hearing God's revelation and was "once delivered to the saints". This means that God is not continuing to deliver the faith to men today!

WE MUST NOT BE DECEIVED

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world", I John 1:4. There are false teachers today and there are honest and sincere men who are deceived, so we must check them against the Bible. The church at Ephesus TRIED those who said they were apostles (had special revelations) and found them LIARS, Rev. 2:2. Christ commended them for TRYING the CLAIMS of others! WE MUST DO THE SAME TODAY! WHETHER THEY ARE HONEST, OR KNOW THEY ARE FALSE TEACHERS.

Glynn V. Purdy

The Wisdom (cont.)

book of wisdom slowly, prayerfully, and frequently to glean from its inspired pages the wonderful future for those who obey its precepts and the condemnation to those that disregard its teachings. It is compared to a river of pleasure, it is a mine of wealth, and describes a paradise of glory. It is given to mankind in this life, it will be remembered forever, and will be opened at the last judgement to be used as a law of inscription that will settle the final abode of all intelligence. It also contains the wisdom of the highest responsibility, it will grant the greatest reward for the greatest labor, and will condemn without hesitation all who trifle or misuse its holy inspired contents.

Scriptures to affirm the above statements are too numerous to quote all that deals with what has been said. After all, the title, "THE WISDOM of the Bible".

Written by: Jason Y. Frizzell

of the gospel will yield fruits of righteousness forever.

I count all the wonderful things that He has done for all the great men of the past and I find that He does all of these things for me and more, through redemption and salvation in Christ His Son and my Redeemer. Yes, God is living and active today in more ways than I can ever conceive or think.

The Conversion of Cornelius

By Clovis Ragsdale

The tenth chapter of Acts records the conversion of the first Gentile to become a Christian and for that reason, if for no other, should prove interesting to all of those who read this paper.

As members of the Gentile race of people and having many blessings of the age in which we live, we sometimes forget that once there was a time when our race did not enjoy the blessings and privileges that are ours to have. Time was when only the Jew was privileged to call God, Father, but this came to an end after the death of Jesus upon the cross, where he died for all men, regardless of race or color. This had been prophesied by the prophets. See Isaiah 2:2-3, Micah 4:1-2; Ezekiel 17:22, and many others to be found in the Old Testament as well as Christ himself. Matt. 21:33-44.

What was this first Gentile to become a Christian like? First we are told that he was an officer in the Italian or Roman army, holding the rank of Captain. In the second verse of Acts 10, we learn that he believed in God and is described as a man of many good works, giving alms to the poor and as a man who prayed to God always. Some today would say that this man was already a Christian and had nothing to fear in judgment. If living a good moral life will be sufficient to go to heaven, then Cornelius was safe. Yet we find that God made known to this man that he must send men to Joppa and call for one Simon, whose surname was Peter, who would tell him what he oughtest to do. The fact that he was told that there was something for him to do proves beyond a doubt that he was not saved in the sight of God. Remember that Jesus promised Peter in the sixteenth chapter of Matthew that he would be allowed to open the keys of the kingdom. This was fulfilled to the Jews on the day of Pentecost as recorded in the second chapter of Acts. Here in the tenth chapter of the same book we learn that the same Peter is for the first time telling a Gentile what he must do to become a Christian. It took quite a bit of trouble on the part of God as well as for Cornelius to bring this Gospel preacher into his presence. Peter was doubtful of the meaning of the trance that God caused to come upon him in which he was showed. Cornelius had to send men after Peter. Peter had to make the journey which amounted to about thirty miles. Why was all this necessary? We are told today by many preachers that all one must do to be saved is just get down by their radios and pray through, while others say we can be saved out in the fields by ourselves. In all of the

(Continued on Page 4)

A Message to Our Generation

"At a time when our society desperately needs mature leadership and guidance, many capable older people are shirking their responsibilities because they are intimidated by the youth cult," charges Dr. William Banowsky, president of prestigious Peppersine College in Malibu, California.

"Instead of assuming their natural roles as teachers for the young, many highly qualified adults simply drop out. Others make pitiful attempts to leap the age barrier by affecting the dress, speech and mannerisms of the 'Now' generation," he told the ENQUIRER.

"As a result, radical youngsters who haven't lived long enough to acquire either wisdom or judgment are stepping into the vacuum and emerging as sages of our time," said Dr. Banowsky who, at 36 is one of the country's youngest college presidents.

"Many parents really believe their children are smarter than they are—perhaps because kids have achieved a sort of super sophistication from watching television or from the other mass media.

"But this is not the n-depth wisdom that comes from experience. There are some lessons that only time can teach. There's no book or documentary that can equal the experience of actually living an event." Adults have no reason to apologize for what they've done when the young attack the Establishment, he said, "We must forget this nonsense about the 'Now' generation," he added with some anger.

"Middle-aged Americans advanced civilization in this country and the world farther than any other generation in history. So why are we apologizing to a generation that has accomplished nothing."

"The 'Now' generation didn't develop space technology, put men on the moon, develop the Salk polio vaccine or advance medical science. "And the over-40 set has raised the working man's standard living to the highest in the world, and has built libraries, schools and social programs that make it possible for everyone to get an education regardless of race or economic class.

"Our older generation should be passing on their wealth of knowledge to the young instead of feeling guilty because they are growing old," he said. Adults must first accept their responsibility to understand the young and then to lead them.

"We can't expect children to understand us anymore than we understand our own parents," he pointed out. "It is easier for a man of 50 to understand his 20-year-old son than it is

The Padded Cross

"Well, here I am Lord. You said, "Take up your cross," and I'm here to do it. It's not easy, you know, this self-denial thing. I mean to go through with it though, yes sir. I'll bet you wish more people were willing to be disciples like me. I've counted the cost and surrendered my life and . . . it's not an easy road.

"You mind if I look over these crosses? I'd kind of like a new one. I'm not fussy you understand, but a disciple has to be relevant these days. I was wondering . . . are there any that are vinyl padded? I'm thinking of attracting others, you see, and if I could show them a comfortable cross I'm sure I could win a lot more. Got to keep up with the population explosion and all. And I need something durable so I can treasure it always . . . oh, is there one that's sort of flat so it would fit under my coat? One shouldn't be too obvious.

"Funny, there doesn't seem to be much choice here. Just that coarse, rough wood. I mean, that would hurt! Don't you have something more distinctive, Lord? I can tell you right now, none of my friends are going to be impressed by this shoddy workmanship! They'll think I'm a nut or something! And my family will just be mortified!

"What's that . . . it's either one of these or forget the whole thing? . . . But, Lord, I want to be your disciple! I mean, just being with you is all that counts, but life has a balance, too . . . But you don't understand, nobody lives that way today! Who's going to be attracted by this self-denial bit? I mean, they'll have me off to the funny farm . . . know what I mean?

"I mean, being a disciple is challenging and exciting, and I want to do it, but I do have some rights, you know! Now, let's see . . . No blood, O.K.? I just can't stand the thought of that Lord . . . Lord? . . . Now, where do you suppose He went?

—C. L. Saylor, So. Nat'l. bulletin

for the son to understand his father. After all, the father knows what it's like to be 20, but there's no way his son can feel the problems of being 50.

What we must have if this society is to survive is a bridge of understanding. When we can effectively combine the experience and knowledge of age with the new ideals, enthusiasm and tremendous energy of youth, we'll be able to build something of value and solve our problems," Dr. Banowsky explained.

"But if we don't find that understanding and cooperation, we may find it too late to put the pieces back together."

—Bill Banowsky from the National Enquirer vis Columbia Ave., Riverside bulletin

CONTRIBUTIONS

Agnos Church of Christ	\$ 5.00
O. T. Russell	2.00
Mrs. Hubert Rhoades	5.00
Viola Church of Christ	5.00
Elizabeth Church of Christ	5.00
Sturkie Church of Christ	5.00
Wheeling Church of Christ	5.00
Ruth Draton	1.00
Ring Church of Christ	5.00
Dellhalf Church of Christ	5.00
Williford Church of Christ	25.00
M. V. Stark	1.00
Orville DuBois	2.00

An Infilling (cont.)

validated the Scripture. Conversely, this writer replied, there was nothing greater than the "filling in of the Scripture". This writer commented further that the Scripture would validate (or invalidate) their experience.

To be sure, the Holy Spirit question is an extremely, vital and serious question. One should not approach it hastily—but, cautiously, prayerfully, and Scripturally. What is most needed today, as this writer views it, is not an "infilling of the Holy Spirit," but a "filling in of the Scripture."

Mike Wilson
Box 175
Springlake, Texas 79082

The Conversion (cont.)

New Testament we have no example of anyone being saved without first being told words whereby they might be saved.

When Peter arrived, and began to teach those assembled how that God had sent Christ into this world and of the many things that he did and how that he was put to death and raised again the third day, the Holy Spirit fell on them as it did on the Jews at Pentecost. Then Peter asked a question that causes consternation in the minds of so many. "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. Thus, we see that the Gentiles were permitted to become a part of the kingdom or church of God. We can be a part of this kingdom too, if we will hear the word of God, believe that message, repent of our sins, confess the name of Christ, and be baptized. Nothing mysterious to do, no experiences to relate, no vote to be taken, and no need to tarry at a mourners bench. The examples of New Testament conversions were outlined for our benefit and are the pattern for us to follow today.

So You Think You are A Pretty Big Wheel?

SIMON

Simon, of Acts 8 was "giving out that himself was some great one" 8:9.

DIOTREPES

Diotrepes, "loved to have the preeminence among them", 3 John 9.

PAUL'S TEACHING

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith", Rom. 12:3.

JESUS' TEACHING

"For whosoever exhalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted", Luke 14:11.

WHEN WE FEEL TOO IMPORTANT, LET US TAKE A LOOK AT GOD AND HIS WORKS

We are one of about three and a half BILLION (3,500,000,000) people on this planet. God is said to have at least one hundred Billion other stars and planets in His galaxy! Nine of these planets revolve around the sun. The nearest of these planets to the earth, is the moon, which ranges from 221, 463 to 252,710 miles from us. The distance from the earth to the sun, varies from 91,500,000 to 94,500,000 miles and the sun is 865,000 miles in diameter! this is small compared to Jupiter, which is 1,300 times larger than the earth and is 367 million miles away. But Jupiter is a close neighbor, compared to some stars which are said to be 24 trillion miles away (24,000,000,000,000). Still feel important?

THE EARTH

Our planet earth is 7,927 miles in diameter; 24,860 miles in circumference and has a surface of 196,970,980 sq. miles. It rotates (counter-clockwise) each 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4.09 seconds. At the same time it is in orbit around the sun and completes the orbit in 365 days, 6 hours, 9 minutes and 11 seconds. It is traveling through space at the speed of 18 miles a second, 64,800 miles an hour. Yet Pluto is so far away 2,670,000,000 miles, that it takes it 248.4 years to orbit the sun! Some of the stars are said to be so far away that they are measured in light-years. Which means how far light can travel in a year at the speed of 186,273 miles per second! Only 17 stars are said to be less than 12 light-years away! Some are 1 billion, 600 million

light-years away! Too far to walk! Does this sound like that man has "conquered" space?

GOD

Some where in this vast space is God! He is no respecter of persons! These planets cover these great distances with such accuracy that we set our watch by them! Isn't it a shame that we are not as dependable as the planets? Man, God's greatest work, has caused him mostly grief and has become unpredictable in all ages! With three and one-half billion others to watch over, surely God does not think any one person is more important than any other person. In a hundred years from now, hardly a soul now living will be on this planet alive! Others will be in full charge, those yet unborn! One person thought of persons who thought of themselves more highly than they ought to think, as like a log in the river with a million ants on it, each thinking that HE ALONE was GUIDING the log!

Glynn V. Purdy

"He who puts God first, will find God with him at the last." (Read Matt. 6:33)

Do you in the church building occupy a pew,
Turn around to see what other's wear, or
Sit behind a head of uncropped hair??
Do you go to worship? to hear God's word
proclaimed and join in hymns and prayer.
Or to just wait until the service is over
to mingle with friends that are there?

Marmoth Springs, Arkansas
 Rosa Ragsdale
 75507