

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Publication No. 211780

Second Class Postage Paid at Mammoth Spring, Ark.

Volume 16

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554

January, 1982 (1983?)

No. 5

A Teaching Model

Bill Graddy

We have model cars, trains and planes. Also, we have men and women who model clothes. In the field of education we have teaching models. These models serve as an outline, guide and procedure for imparting knowledge.

Relative to teaching the Bible, I developed this model and found it to be effective in teaching and reasoning with people. This model is based upon the premise, **WE CANNOT BELIEVE THAT WHICH WE HAVE NOT BEEN TAUGHT.** Whatever our belief system is, we have been taught, have understood that teaching, and thus established our belief. We may have been taught error, have understood or misunderstood error or truth, yet the process was necessary for us to believe. In all learning, especially Christianity, it is imperative that we be taught the truth. (John 6:45, 8:32). Study the model.

TAUGHT

1. Truth
2. Error

UNDERSTOOD

1. Truth
2. Error

BELIEVE

1. Truth
2. Error

Obedience -
Faithful

Reflections on the Model.

We can be taught truth or error. Therefore, we understand truth or error. The result is our belief system. Example: One says, "I believe that sprinkling is scriptural baptism." I ask him why he believes this? He replies, "Because I was taught this, understood this, and therefore believed it."

In beginning the study, ask the student (person) what he believes about the subject you wish to teach him. This will be what he was taught and what he understood. Obtain the authority (Scripture, persons or Creed) for what he was taught. If he were taught error, then teach him the truth using the Scriptures. Reason with the student from what he believes to what he was taught and understood. Note the process relative to Satan and Eve in

the Garden of Eden. Satan taught Eve error. She understood and obeyed the error she was taught. (Gen. 3:1-7). (The greatest of lessons is, we must be taught truth, understand truth, obey truth, and be faithful to the truth to the saving of our souls eternally).

All of us developed our beliefs in this manner because we cannot learn by osmosis, neither are we taught directly by the Holy Spirit; therefore, someone had to teach us or we taught ourselves. The principle is the same as stated in the premise.

Do we believe what we have been taught and have understood? "... the devils also believe and tremble." (James 2:19). We must believe. (Mark 16:16; John 8:24). However, believing only or knowing only is not sufficient as this would be the same as the false doctrine of "Faith Only." Therefore, we must obey what we believe.

Finally, after obeying the truth we must continue to be faithful all the days of our lives. (Rev. 2:10).

This model is profoundly simple and simply profound. Try it, use it!

WHERE ARE THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

by Wendell Winkler

Though some may have their headquarters in Rome, Italy, Anderson, Indiana, or Salt Lake City, Utah, the Lord's church has no earthly headquarters. The headquarters of a body or institution is the place where the head resides and the place from whence orders or laws come to govern the subjects. Jesus is said to be the head of the church. "And he is the head of the body, the church" (Col. 1:18). Also, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body" (Eph. 1:22-23). Christ, as head of the church, resides in heaven. "... by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: who is gone into heaven and is on the right hand

of God" (1 Peter 3:21-22). Since headquarters is where the head resides, and Christ as head of the church resides in heaven, the headquarters for the church of Christ is in heaven. This is the place from whence all laws governing the church come. The church of our blessed Lord has no earthly council of men who sit as a legislative body to formulate laws and by-laws to govern members of the church. Such a system is foreign to the New Testament and is an infringement on the supreme authority of heaven.

According to the pattern each congregation is a local independent body with its own self government - under the higher authority of heaven. The church of our Lord, universally speaking, has no earthly

continued on page 4

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 the financial status and expenses, that information will be furnished upon request.

EDITOR Mike Pace

Publication No. 211780

Heaven Is Real

By Terry S. Frizzell

In John 14:1-6 our savior said: "In my Father's house are many mansions." "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Heaven is just as real as anything that you have or expect to have in this life. The difference is that it is not in this life and you have not as yet seen it. Yet, by faith we know that Heaven is real. Heb. 11:1 says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The substance and evidence are both given to us in Jesus Christ. He came and lived among us "The Son Of God." He has shown us the substance in himself, and his life shows that he keeps all promises, thus the evidence of that which we have not seen. It is by faith that we know heaven is real.

Everyone who has suffered as a Christian or experienced the problems of this life can rejoice that heaven is real. Paul tells us that heaven is, to those who are troubled, a rest. And that the Lord will take vengeance on the ungodly that have troubled us. Troubled? Rest with us, for heaven is real.

Heaven is a place where everything is good. Rev. 21:27 states "there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth." We cannot take our sins into heaven with us, we must repent. We must allow the blood of Christ to cleanse us of sin and continue faithful to Him. Isn't it a wonderful thought to know that the sin of this world will no longer harm us in heaven. Get rid of sin, for heaven is real.

Heaven is also eternal, it will never end. "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days than when we first begun."

continued on page 4

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

By Ordell Heavin

If we sincerely believe God holds the future in His hands (Romans 13:1), and that our destiny is best secured by submitting to Divine Authority as James 4:15 states, "For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that". Then no matter what tomorrow brings, victory shall be our ultimate song. "Now thanks be unto God, which always cause us to triumph in Christ and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place" (II Cor. 2:14). Job understood principles when he said, "though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15). The writer of a spiritual song has blessed us with these words to make us think.

*Through days of toil, when heart does fail,
When danger fierce your path assails,
No matter what may be the test,
Lean weary one upon His breast.
God will take care of you.*

It is a marvelous thing to walk with faith in the Creator of the entire universe down the scenes of life's conflicts and disappointments. It's marvelous to know what ever comes we can endure and even grow stronger because of the tribulations of the road. How beautiful the road could be to all of us if we only looked for the footprints of our Lord upon the sands of time. "For even hereunto were ye called; for Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow His steps". (I Peter 2:21).

Our own values would change for the better if we realized our place in God's plan for man. "Let us make man in our own image" (Genesis 1:26). "Do all to the glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31). The bitter experiences of life can be used to make us stronger and better servants of the one who suffered, bled and died for us. "For unto you is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." (Phil 1:29). "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for the body sake, which is the church." (Col. 1:24).

*A faith that shines more bright and clear,
When tempests rage without;
That when in danger knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt.*

When our trust in God never wanes, we are victorious. "We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us" (Romans 8:37). None can desire what he has not preceived. We limit ourselves by small plans. God can use us if we would only let Him. The one talent man of Matthew 25 proves this point. We need the faith, effort, expectation, and desire to determine our destiny.

Since we will be judged "by the deeds done in the body" (II Cor. 5:10), we ought to use great care in our daily walk before God; "that ye might walk worthy of the Lord" (Col. 1:10). Our maker can use the smallest talent and the smallest effort which is offered as our best. (Matt. 10:42). In fact some of our brightest glashes of glory belong to servants such as Barnabas, Andrew and Hannah. Others with golden moments in the spotlight, misused their talents and soiled their future destiny. How beautiful heaven will be for the humble servant of God who honestly and truthfully preached and taught the Gospel of Christ. Some who claim to be members of the church of our Lord have modernized, changed and perverted the truth. But that humble servant, whether it be preacher, elder, deacon or just members who taught only truth as "Ye shall know the truth and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32) received little earthly notice. But salvation of souls, with whom they can live with in eternity, think of their eternal reward.

What does the future hold? Let us remember that the most high rule in the kingdom (Dan. 4:25) to the earnest Christian is who holds the future, not what is the future. Such a view makes living in the present worthwhile, and in the world to come that eternal home of the soul called heaven. Let's never give up or sell out the truth of the Bible and Christ as all authority.

••••

"A man discovers the real meaning of life when he becomes a fellow-worker with God."

"Every person in the New Testament who was converted was a person who learned he was wrong, and changed."

Justification by Faith Only

By Mike Pace

When is one saved by faith? Is it when he **believes** or is it when his faith leads him to **obey** the word of God? Many honest and sincere souls firmly believe in justification by faith only. I do not question their sincerity, nor do I wish to reflect upon them in any way. My sole purpose is to present, for your earnest consideration, what the Word teaches on the subject of justification by faith.

First, let us notice how faith comes. The Bible teaches that faith comes by hearing the word of God "And when there had been much questioning, Peter rose up and said unto them, Brethren, ye know that a good while ago, God made choice among you that by my **mouth** the Gentiles should **hear** the word of the gospel and believe" (Acts 15:7-9). Faith came to the Gentiles by **hearing** the word of the gospel. "Crispus, the ruler of the Synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed, and were baptized." (Acts 18:8). The Corinthians heard before they believed. In John 17:20, Jesus said: "Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me **through their word.**" In John 20:30, 31, we read: "Many other signs, therefore, did Jesus in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book: but these are **written** that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye may have life in his name." "So then faith cometh by **hearing** and hearing by the **Word of God.**" (Rom. 10:17.)

When it comes to the question of justification by faith, the Bible clearly teaches that a man is saved by faith. What does the Bible teach as to **when** one is saved by faith? Is it by faith **only**, or is it when one's faith leads him to obey the will of God? In Romans 5:1, Paul said; "Being therefore, justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." He said "Justified by faith," but he did not say justified by "faith only". Jesus said in James 2:24, "Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith." This is the only place where the two words "faith" and "only" are used together with reference to salvation and here they are preceded by the word "not". The works to which James referred are not meritorious works, such as Paul had in

mind when he said "Not of works" in Ephesians 2:8, 9 speaking of the works of the Mosaic Law. James as the context shows, spoke of works of **obedience**. The passage which tells us that salvation is not by "works" about which one could boast refers to the works of the Law of Moses. This we see from Romans 3:27 "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law; of works? Nay; but by the law of faith." The law of faith excludes **boasting** but does not exclude **obedience**. When Paul said in Ephesians 2:8, 9, "not of works", we know he did not mean not of obedience, because he said in Rom. 6:16, "Know ye not that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey."

In order to further establish the fact that the Bible teaches that one is not justified by faith "only," I call your attention to the following:

1. If a man is saved by faith only, he is saved without the new birth. In John 1:12, we read: "But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God." From this we see that one may be a believer and not be a child of God. For the believer is **given the right to become** the child of God. This passage does not say that believers become the children of God, but that they are given the right **to become** the children of God. If one is saved the moment he believes, he is saved before he exercises his right to become a child of God. If then he is saved the moment he believes, he is saved before he becomes a child of God. If saved before he becomes a child of God, he is saved without the new birth, for one cannot be born anew without in the new birth becoming a child of God.

2. If one is saved by faith only, he is saved by an imperfect faith. "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? Thou seest that faith wrought with his works, and **by works** was faith made perfect." (Jas. 2:21,22). Faith must exist before it works. It must work before it is perfected. If one is saved by faith only, he is saved by an imperfect faith.

3. If one is saved by faith only, he is saved by dead faith. "For as the body apart from spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead." (Jas. 2:26). Faith alone is faith apart from works, but faith apart from works is dead. Since it is

impossible to be saved by dead faith, it is impossible to be saved by faith alone.

4. If one can be saved by faith alone, he can be saved without confessing the name of Christ. "Nevertheless, even of the rulers many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue. For they loved the glory that is of men more than the glory that is of God." (John 12:42, 43). These rulers believed on Christ, but they would not confess it. Here we have faith without action. It was a dead faith, an imperfect faith. In order to be saved by faith, one must obey the word of God which is the source of faith. "And a great company of the priests were **obedient** to the faith." (Acts 6:7). Also, in Romans 1:5 and 16:26, we read about the "obedience of faith." Then, if one can be saved by faith only, he can be saved without confessing Christ, Jesus teaches that this is impossible: "Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 10:32,23).

5. The Bible teaches that faith only will not avail. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but faith working through love." (Gal. 5:6) Faith must exist before it works; it must work before it avails. It avails when it works. Thus we see that faith only will not avail, or save, as it must work before it avails.

CONTRIBUTIONS

INDIVIDUALS

Clyde & Delphia Smith	\$20.00
Otis & Evelyn Freeman	10.00
Fred & Karen Faughn	10.00
Archie & Delora Rose	10.00
Anonymous	10.00
Bertie Rorie	5.00
Joe T. & Edith Robinson	70.00
Dorothy Mae Skiver	5.00
Ellaree Billington	5.00

CONGREGATIONS

Gamaiel Church of Christ	\$20.00
Jeff Church of Christ	20.00
Big Pond Church of Christ	24.00
Agnos Church of Christ	5.00
Garfield Church of Christ	15.00
Viola Church of Christ	5.00

WHERE ARE THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

continued from page 1

organization with an earthly head or bishop and other offices. However, the scriptures do speak of the local congregation being organized with elders (Acts 15:4), deacons (1 Tim. 3:8), evangelists (2 Tim. 4:5), and members (Rom. 12:4-5).

We cannot afford to change this arrangement. Israel changed God's arrangement of government and desired a king to be like the nations round about them. Samuel, one of God's prophets, was displeased with Israel's request for a king. God spoke to Samuel and said, "For they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them" (1 Sam. 8:7). In rejecting God's arrangement of government, they rejected him.

♦♦♦♦

HEAVEN IS REAL

continued from page 2

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal." (Matt. 25:46). Eternity is a long time to experience all the problems that only come occasionally here, but eternity is not long enough to know only that which is good. Eternal heaven is real, don't miss it.

All of us look for bargains when we shop. Well, heaven is the best bargain you will ever find. You could never do enough or endure enough to deserve to spend eternity there. It is only by the grace of God that anyone can have the hope of heaven. Heaven is a real bargain.

You can go to heaven! Paul knew he was going and he said that we can too, in II Tim. 4:7-8. Just think what a thrill to hear the Lord invite us in when he comes again. We need to get ready now, for heaven is real.

♦♦♦♦

"Few things in this world are more spacious than the room we have for improvement."

"Gossip is a little insect: it has neither legs nor wings, it is wholly made up of tales, and most of them have stings."

How to Become a Christian

The most important question ever asked is: "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). Then, the HOW become equally as important. Notice the step by step process. First, we must have faith in the Author and Finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ. (Heb. 12:2). This faith comes by the hearing of the word of God. (Rom. 10:17). "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). With the belief and trust that Jesus is the Redeemer, we must repent of sins. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." (Acts 17:30). In repentance, we turn from sin, STOP serving Satan and START serving the Lord. (Matt 3:8, Luke 13:

3). With this new attitude we are ready to confess our faith, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*" (Rom. 10:9-10). Read Matthew 10:32-33. Acknowledging our faith, repentance and confession, the last step into Christ is baptism. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27). Read Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38. Now that our past sins have been forgiven, the Lord has added us to His church and we are Christians. (Acts 2:47; Acts 11:26).

BECOME A CHRISTIAN