

# FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

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## WHAT A MESS!

Boyd E. Morgan - Mammoth Spring

Of course the church of Christ is the only church that teaches a harmonious gospel. It is the only one that can for it is the only one that teaches the truth. Only truth cannot contradict one passage against another.

Ever notice how the practice of the exponents of the theory of the direct operation of the Holy Ghost contradicts the Bible in many places.

For instance, they teach a believing penitent to seek the Holy Ghost in order to be saved. They say you've got to seek it until you get it. When you get it you know it, they say. Then when you say you've got it and are saved, they'll baptize you then because you got it and are saved. When you want to know where the Bible teaches you that you can get it they quote Acts 2:38. "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Now read it again and just suppose it does teach (and it does not) that you can get the direct operation of the Holy Ghost. It then teaches that you would have to repent and be baptized in order to get it, but they'll tell you to repent and get down on your knees and pray until you get it. Now anybody can see that you'd have to repent and be baptized to get it even if they were right in saying you can get it. But they won't baptize you until **AFTER** you get it.

Wow! Did they ever mess that one up, brother! Well, it's their mess. Not mine.

Of course if you want the truth you'll have to come to the church of Christ to get it. Just all depends on whether you want the truth or not.

Now in Acts 8:16 the Samaritans whom Phillip had baptized had not received the Holy Ghost, but that preacher sure wasn't preaching for the folks I'm talking about. Read Acts 8:16 for yourself. Don't just take my word for it. That's right. Read it.

Sure I know all about Peter commanding the household of Cornelius to be baptized **AFTER** they had received the Holy Ghost. Acts 10. Now

what have you proved? That Acts 8 is wrong? You've got one passage arrayed against another now and have the Bible contradicting itself. Well, that's what I said in the first place. It's your mess. You fix it.

You'll still have to come to the church of Christ for the truth. We are the only ones that teach a harmonious gospel and can harmonize them in truth. Sure, it just depends on whether or not you really want the **TRUTH**.

## BAPTISM HOW, WHO AND WHEN

Orbie Robbins — Elizabeth

Baptism is a troubler of denominationalisms in the light of New Testament teaching on the subject.

Baptism is the most hated command by the enemies of the truth, and due to this attitude on their part toward baptism, they wrest the scriptures to their own destruction. As a result many theories have been formulated and advanced by them with reference to baptism.

That it is a command cannot be denied in view of the following scriptures. Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 10:48.

Commands must be obeyed. I John 2:3-4; II John 9:11.

Let us first consider the How of Baptism.

How is one to be baptized?

The religious world in general will say, "Sprinkle, pour or immerse."

In the Bible there is no example given of sprinkling or pouring water for baptism. Neither is there a precept or command for such.

Bible expression allow only immersion as the scriptural How of Baptism.

1. Much water. John 3:23.
2. Came unto a certain water. Acts 8:36.
3. Went down into the water. Acts 8:39.
4. Came up out of the water. Acts 8:39.
5. Subject handled and not element Acts 8:38.

Scriptures do not allow sprinkling or pouring in administering Bible baptism. But the scriptures teach Bible baptism to be a burial. Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

Next, let us consider the Who.

## WHO IS TO BE BAPTIZED?

1. The taught. Mt. 28:19-20. This truth concerning the who would exclude infants as a subject of baptism. Feature a sectarian preacher teaching a baby.

2. Believers are to be baptized. Mk. 16:16; Acts 8:36.

Faith comes by hearing God's word. Rom. 10:17. Again infants left out here.

3. The penitent. Acts 2:37-38. Babies excluded here.

4. Those who confess Christ. Acts 8:37.

5. The unsaved. Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16; I Pet. 3:21.

Infants are safe, not lost. Mt. 18:3. Now from these Bible truths concerning the who of baptism it would be nothing short of mockery in the name or religion to assume and practice infant baptism.

Now, in conclusion, let us consider the Why of baptism.

## WHY BE BAPTIZED?

I realize that some teach that baptism declares or shows forth our salvation. Yet, excluding the Quakers who do not baptize, there is no denomination that one can become a member of without submitting to what they call baptism.

Note the following scriptural reasons why to be baptized!

1. To be saved. Mk. 16:16; I Pet. 3:21.
2. To put on Christ. Gal. 3:26-27.
3. To enter Kingdom. John 3:5.
4. To enter Christ's body. I Cor. 12:13.
5. New Life. Rom. 6:4.
6. To reach the death of Christ. Rom. 6:3.
7. To wear Christ's name. I Cor. 1:12-13.

What about your baptism? Was it preceded by: hearing the gospel; believing; repentance; and a confession of Christ not of your feelings? Was it a burial in water for the remission of your sins? Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4.

To be infallibly safe and to become a member of the church of our Lord, you must do these things. Then continue faithful unto death in order for heaven to be your home in the afterwhile. Rev. 2:10; Rev. 22:14.

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Boyd E. Morgan

### EDITORIAL

Would to God that more fathers and mothers could see the joy and need of preaching and give more encouragement to our boys to prepare themselves to preach the gospel of Christ. There should be some boy in every congregation everywhere that the entire congregation has a word of encouragement for and plans for developing that boy into a preacher. Too many of us have our hearts set on professions for our children that will give them a fat purse here in this world and forget the eternal possessions that never fail.

Fulton County has in the past produced some illustrious preachers of the true faith. These have been staunch defenders of the faith, and holders forth of the true light. It is not at all unusual to visit communities and hear them boast of the noble men they produced and hear enumerated quite a list of fine old time gospel preachers. There is only one thing wrong. These good old men are gone. They have wound up their labors and have been called to the home they held out faithfully to

attain. But the need they filled still remains. "How then shall they (this they still needs to be saved. B. M.) call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Rom. 10:14. Too many of us have taken great pride in the old faithful gospel preachers and in our boasting of them and have forgotten all about our present needs of today.

But we are still producing some. During December two young gospel preachers who are excellent preachers visited our county and it may be said to our credit that they are sons or grandsons of our efforts. Bro. Charles Coil was reared near Burk's Chapel and is now preaching regularly for a congregation near Florence, Alabama. Before going there he labored with the church in La Porte, Indiana. Bro. Hillard Story is the son of Harley Story, who was reared in the Sturkie community and Bro. Hillard has plans to enter the foreign mission field in Sicily in June.

Bro. Ira G. Woodward of Mammoth Spring is now preaching regularly each Lord's Day. Bro. Clovis Ragsdale of Moten is preaching two and three Sundays a month. Brethern Harold Jackson, Virgil Boler and Marshall Holloway of Mammoth Spring fill many appointments.

But there are eighteen congregations in our county. Every one should have someone they are encouraging to preach. Perhaps they have. Look around you and See.

Fathers, take that boy at your feet and tell him of the Christ and his Kingdom. Tell him of the saving gospel. Tell him of the crying need and the fields white unto harvest. Mothers, encourage him. Your reward, parents, will be a happy heart when you see and hear him in the pulpit winning souls to Christ and know you had a part.

Only don't put off starting. Start now encouraging our boys to preach and provide them opportunities to get started. Our boys are tomorrow's preachers. Tomorrow's church will depend on them.

Boyd E. Morgan

### REPENTANCE

Joe Pruett ——— Thayer, Mo.  
Repentance is a much needed subject among both saint and sinner. The deeds of man day after day serve as evidence of its need as well as evidence of a lack of a realization

of its NECESSITY. If repentance could find a warm reception in man's heart the sinner would no longer be wicked and the saint would cease to be hypocritical. However, getting men to repent is one of the most difficult tasks one will ever undertake. Realizing that salvation is involved, we must continue, with all of our might, to preach, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."

Repentance is not by any means a new subject God sent Jonah to Nineveh to preach repentance to a wicked city. John the baptist came preaching, "Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Jesus preached repentance and also commissioned His disciples to do the same. Peter, guided by the Holy Spirit, preached repentance on the day of Pentacost and again in Acts 3 to another group. Repentance continued to be preached throughout the New Testament era. Acts 17:30; IIPet. 3:9; Rev. 2:5. Repentance has been preached for thousands of years and still cannot be over emphasized.

A definition of our subject is now in order, to clarify some misconceptions. Repentance is not just being sorry for one's sins. A drunkard may show his sorrow through weeping but before the tears are dry he may be drinking again. Paul said, "Godly sorrow worketh repentance." II Cor. 7:10. Therefore, just being sorry is not repentance. Neither is a reformation of life alone. John the baptist said, "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance". Matt. 3:8. One must show by his actions that he has repented. Therefore, if repentance is not just being sorry for one's sins nor a reformation of life by itself, but both are included, then repentance must be somewhere between the two. A clear example is given in Matt. 21:28-29. "What think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not but later repented and went." The boy showed a change of will which was based on sorrow and which resulted in a reformation of life. There are the steps which constitute repentance and which we must not cease to emphasize.

Whether or not one repents is determined by his works. Some of the Jews who practiced curious arts were converted and to show their repentance they brought their books and burned them. Acts 19:19. The

people of Nineveh showed their repentance by putting on sackcloth, sitting in ashes and fasting. Jonah 4:5-10. A drunkard repents when he refrains from drinking. The fruits of his repentance is seen in his reformation of life and his later conduct.

The world is sinful because man is sinful. If the world is ever made a better place in which to live, man will have to quit his wickedness and turn to God. Whether you be saint or sinner, why don't you realize today that it is either repent or perish. Neighbor, why don't YOU repent and turn to God?

### DOING OUR PART

Marion Farley — Dallas, Texas

We have all had more or less experience in days gone by in our natural families of this nature, and know what it means for each to do his or her share of the work.

Naturally, the part required depends on ability, knowledge, and opportunity.

Fortunately, this is all God expects of HIS children, but he does expect and requires as much of his followers.

With the parable of the talents, Jesus emphasized the same, "And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability" (Mt. 25:15) The Lord of those servants seemed as well pleased with the two talent man as the five, since he did as well accordingly as the first but the one with one talent buried his in the earth, and was called, "Wicked and slothful," by his master, for shirking his duty.

In Acts 11:29 Paul had this to say of some who were willing to work: "Then the Disciples every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea." 30 "Which also they did." No slothful men among them there.

"And that servant which knew his Lord's will (and did it not) and prepared not himself, shall be beaten with many stripes." Lk. 12:47. "He that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin." Jas. 4:17. These are ample proof God expects service of all those in his family (church) or kingdom.

Many an occasion for doing good is passed by because of negligence or lack of interest.

Paul instructs as to time. Gal. 6:10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,

especially to them who are of the household of faith." He also mentions some in Phil. 4:10, who at some previous time had contributed to his support, but for a while were unable because they "Lacked opportunity," and commends them for their loyalty.

We MUST have a part in the work of the church to be admitted into that beautiful city, since it is through the church that men are saved.

Each one must do his own work in the church of our Lord. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him." I Cor. 16:2.

Each Christian must be an influence for good. Mt. 5:16. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

In visiting the sick and needy it is the same, "I was sick and ye ministered unto me". These had heard him say in the judgment, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you." Isn't this encouraging enough to 'do our part'?

It is impossible to do our part without being interested in the salvation of the souls of others. The beloved apostle was willing to do whatever necessary to win souls to Christ, "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." I Cor. 9:22.

These are positive proof that the responsibility is individual, as are two other quotations from Paul. Gal. 6:5. "For every man shall bear his own burden" and in Rom. 14:13 "So then every one of US shall give account of himself to God."

Some fail to do their part because of Laziness. "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me".

Some because of ignorance, "I did it ignorantly in unbelief."

Some because of indifference, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot, because thou art neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Rev. 3:15-16.

Some because of selfish interests. "And they all with one consent began to make excuses. The Lord has no time for excuse makers. When you find a person that starts making excuses for not coming to church or not becoming a Christian, every time they are approached on the subject, it is soon apparent you are just wasting valuable time, time that should be devoted to people who are "Hungering and thirsting after right-

eousness," and there are plenty of them.

We should want to do our part, for only in this way can we imitate the Saviour, who said, "I must do the works of him that sent me while it is day", having reference to this life, He said also in Jno. 17:14, "I have finished the work thou gavest me to do."

Unless we do our part we will be condemned. Mt. 24:30.

We should want to do our part by working in the Masters vineyard, "And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal."

Surely these are enough to inspire us to "DO OUR PART" before the "Night cometh when no man works."

Knowing that we are just members of one big family, we should realize that we have our duties to perform, our responsibilities to meet. Unless we do our share of the work, and contribute our part of the money God has blessed us with, others necessarily are going to be burdened. The Lord's work must be carried on, and it is a shame and a disgrace the way some will drag in late nearly every time they come. Then may be they will give a dollar (sometimes only a few cents), and then go home thinking they have worshipped in 'spirit and in truth.' Brethern and friends, this is not 'The way' Jesus spoke of, if it is, all can get there.

Be sure to tune in Radio Station K A L M each Lord's Day morning at 9 o'clock, 1290 on your dial, for the Mammoth Spring and Thayer churches of Christ radio program.

### SHORTS

We usually see about what we are looking for. Why not look for the good in things awhile. You might be surprised.

Knowing your limitations is the first step in overcoming them.

Why is it that people who say that they want to go to heaven are often headed in the wrong direction?

If you're having a hard time keeping up with the Joneses, wait a while and you'll meet them coming back.

A man must be little to belittle. The Bible knows nothing of modes of baptism.

Ever think about the church of Christ's choice instead of the church of your choice. They might be quite different.

## THE LORD BUILT BUT ONE

In a midwestern town lived a father, mother, and little boy of nine. The mother was a member of a certain church, the father a member of another. Both were ardent church workers. The question arose as to which church the son should attend. Finally, it was agreed that he should go with the mother one Sunday, and with the father the next.

One morning as the boy and his father were preparing to leave for church, the bell on the mother's church began to ring. "Father, does God do everything for the best?" the little boy asked. "Yes," the father answered. "Did He build the church?" the little fellow continued. "Yes, it is His church," was the reply. "Well," asked the puzzled boy, "Why didn't he build just one, so you and mother could go to church together?"

Such a situation as this is one of the reasons why Christians should be telling men and women that Christ did build but one church, and plead with them to belong to it and not to some human denomination (Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:18). It is not "our" church, but "His". It belongs to Christ by virtue of the fact that He built it (Mt. 16:18); by virtue of the fact that He paid for it (Acts 20:28); by virtue of the fact that it is His body (Eph. 1:22f); by virtue of the fact that He is its Head (Col. 1:18); and by virtue of the fact that He is its Saviour (Eph. 5:23). All men are reconciled to God in "one body" (Eph. 2:16).

When a sinner hears the gospel of Christ, he must make a decision. If he accepts it as true, he must decide to obey it, or disobey it. If he decides to obey it, he must repent of his sins (Acts 17:30), make the good confession of his faith in Christ (Rom. 10:10), and be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). When he has done this, the Lord adds him to His church (Acts 2:47).

—Adapted

## SATAN'S LETTER FOR THE WINTER

Mr. Lukewarm Christian  
Anywhere  
Dear Luke:

Glad you took my suggestions last summer and did not bother too much about going to church during the hot weather. Now, you must watch out for the cold and rain and snow this winter, and not bother about going out in the weather, especially to go

to church. You will need to go to your work every day or night, but that is different it will not hurt you. But to go to church might be bad for your health this winter. And if the baby has a cold, be sure the whole family does not go to church.

Do not ever take your religion too seriously; it might run you crazy or destroy some of your lovely friendships. Why not suggest that the Bible study classes, evening worship services, the mid-week Bible study on Wednesday nights and singing classes be discontinued.

Don't forget to show your impatience if the services are a little long.

Must stop now and write old Buddy Backslider. He's been intending to start back to church, and I am afraid he will. He might even confess that he has been unfaithful. That would be silly for him to do, and embarrassing, too. Of course, you will be too tired to attend the Bible study classes next Sunday morning. If you just have to go, just go for preaching, or better yet, just the communion service.

By the way, there is a good show on Sunday. See you then.

Your Friend and Father of Lies,  
B. L. Z. Bub.

Taken from Fisher Street Messenger; Jonesboro, Ark.

## "CHRIST'S PRAYER FOR UNITY"

By Clovis Ragsdale

At the close of his earthly ministry here in this world, our Saviour offered a prayer which all people who desire to serve God should study earnestly. This prayer is recorded in John 17. The climax of his prayer concerns unity on the part of those who should believe on him in the ages to come.

Verses 20, 21 and 22, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father art in me; and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them, that they may be one, even as we are one."

As we observe Christendom today, we can readily see that our Saviour's prayer is not being heeded today. Did Christ pray for something that man could not carry out? If so, then he prayed a vain prayer. I am sure that we would not accuse our Lord of being vain. If we study carefully we can see how and where this unity can be achieved. In verse

14 he stated, "I have given them thy word." Thus through the word we find the one medium of unity. When all people will be willing to take the Bible and the Bible alone, free from the ideas and doctrines of men, then will unity be a reality.

What is to be the result of unity? Verse 21 states the reason why Christ desired unity. "That the world may believe that thou hast sent me." The disunity among followers of Christ has been the excuse for millions not accepting Christ. Christ's two chief aims in his world was to (1) glorify God, and (2) save men's souls. This should also be the aim of every follower of Christ today.

The greatest single step in this direction would be the uniting of all believers. Surely the ideas and notions of men are secondary to the desire of our Saviour and to the saving of lost souls.

## NEWS

Bro. St. Clair Slatton will conduct a six day's meeting at the Salem church of Christ beginning January 16th. All are urged to attend and to hear Bro. Slatton. The Salem church has almost completed their two new classrooms and baptistry. The new unit also has two restrooms. The baptistry is the third now in the county and will help fill a great need. Visit the church during this week and hear Bro. Slatton. He is capable and experienced and will make your trip worthwhile.

Bro. Joe Corley of Marvel, Ark. will begin a week's meeting at the Thayer, Mo. church of Christ Jan. 31. Bro. Corley preached at Rector before going to Marvel and is one of our finest young gospel preachers. You will hear much of him and from him in the future. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

Randall Watkins obeyed the gospel of Christ and was added to His church Dec. 31 at Mammoth Spring. Bro. Watkins will meet with the brethren at Camp. The church at Camp meets each Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. There are Bible classes and preaching each Sunday.

Don't forget the Mammoth Spring Lectureship beginning March 6. A list of speakers and subjects will be published in next month's issue. The first two Lord's days saw attendance at 250 and 265 respectively. We are still growing and pray we shall ever continue.