

# FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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"The Churches of Christ Salute You"  
JANUARY 15, 1954

Mammoth Spring, Ark.  
Permit No. 1

## WORKS

Boyd E. Morgan

How peculiar it is to hear denominational preachers telling alien sinners that there is absolutely nothing that they can do to be saved. For preaching obedience to God's word we are called "Campbellites" and folks are told that we are poison and not to be listened to. These preachers warn folks against us because we preach works and then they preach to those in sin that works has nothing to do with the salvation of their sins. They are told to just believe and accept Christ. They are never told what the bible teaches as to how to accept Christ. But then, no denominational preacher ever bothered to preach the word of God, anyway. Such preaching is in utter disregard of God, Jesus Christ, and their Holy word. To hear a preacher today, saying that there is nothing a sinner can do is certainly different to the Apostle Peter's sermon when "and with many other words did he testify and exhort; saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation." Acts 2:40. There are many today who need to save themselves from the wickedness of this generation. Part of the wickedness is that of preachers telling them that there is nothing that they can do.

The next time you hear them say that works has nothing to do with salvation just ask the preacher what Philippians 2:12 means when it says "work out

your own salvation with fear and trembling." After all it was God who gave us this word and only a preacher who said not to work.

Then while he is looking that over turn to John 5:28, 29 and read where Jesus said, "Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Ask him if 'doing' has anything to do with works and the eternal destiny of the soul. After all it was Jesus who said this and the preacher who preached it was not so.

Furthermore, as they preach that you cannot work to be saved, they will tell you to just believe, and not work for salvation, further contradicting God for when you believe then you have worked a work of God. John 6:25 "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

When you receive the word of God and that produces faith in your heart Rom. 10:17, you have begun to work toward salvation. The apostles who had the word of Jesus said for us to repent. Then you must believe and repent or perish. Luke 13:5; Acts 17:30. The apostles said you must be baptised for the "remission of sins" Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16. God has never blessed any man on the condition of the man's faith before his

act. These are conditions of accepting Christ. Read Acts 2; 41 "Then they that gladly received his word were baptised, and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" This work you must do, to be saved. God does the rest.

When the preacher quotes Eph. 2:8 trying to prove that salvation is without works remind him that the verse speaks of grace and that no work of man merits that grace. Remind him that the grace of God has appeared to all men Titus 2:11 without works of merit on man's part but also tell him that God nowhere teaches salvation is without works or that salvation is by grace alone. God does his part, man must do his. While you are at it, tell him that his explanation of Eph 2:8 makes a contradiction in the bible between this passage and Phil. 2:12 John 5:28, 29 and Acts 2:40. Such contradiction makes infidels and it will be alright with me if you tell him that his erroneous and false doctrine makes more infidels than Christians, for it is impossible for it to make Christians. Jesus is coming to take vengeance on those that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ' II Thess. 1:8. How any preacher can preach that the gospel can be accepted and not obeyed is beyond me?

Then, Too, it is very amusing to hear them preach that works has nothing to do with it and then watch them go to work when they get a sinner up to the  
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## EDITORIAL

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This issue marks the First Anniversary of this paper. In commemoration thereof we bring you this larger issue. We are thankful the little paper is being so graciously received and are thankful, too, that we can do our bit in spreading the truth. The truth finds its own results. Indeed the word of God does not return to him void.

The power of truth is seen in the conversion of honest men from all walks of life. Evil indeed is the man who refuses the truth once he learns it. It is useless to know the will of God and not to do it. Many need the help of true Christians to serve them the truth that God has placed in earthen vessels. The following is an article taken from the Gospel advocate of Dec. 17, 1952 of great interest and is but one of the many such incidents that might be scribed.

Nov 10, 1953

Moning Side Drive

Kingston, N. C.

To Whom This May Concern;

My name is Murthur Lee Lyndall. My age is thirty-nine years.

I was born in Green County and moved to Kinston, N. C., and have lived here all my life, with the exception of the time I was away in college.

I lived a life of sin up until eight years ago. I was converted to the Free Will Baptist Church. I have always been very, very conscientious, and especially so, when I came into the Free Will Baptist Church. I felt the urge to preach the gospel. The reason I felt that God wanted me to preach was due to an accident I had just before I was converted to the faith of the Baptists. I survived in an accident that killed two other instantly. I knew I was spared for something. I started preaching in the Baptist church six months after I became a member. I recognized my need to further my education, so I spent one year in the Free Will Baptist school in Nashville, Tenn.; and from there I went to Wilson, N. C. and spent three years in the Atlantic Christian College. I was ordained in the Baptist Church as a preacher. I have lived in and preached in all good conscience for the Baptists, up until I began hearing W. T. Lemons, minister of the Church of Christ in Kinston, N. C., over the radio. I thought at first that he was preaching the doctrine of the devil. He had lots to say about baptism, and I gathered that he did not believe in a blood salvation. I called him on the phone and conversed with him at length, and then I made a visit to his home, with the idea of converting him to the Free Will Baptist Church. I soon learned that it was I who was wrong and not Brother Lemons. He worked with me very patiently and prayer-

fully. He began unfolding the scriptures to me and I began to see the light all at once. May God bless him for his untiring efforts in converting me to the truth. I shall always love and respect him very highly. Perhaps I was in a similar position that Appolus was in when the word of the Lord was expounded to him more perfectly.

I was baptised into Christ for the remission of my sins on the ninth day of Nov. 1953, by W. S. Lemons. I am now desirous to preach in the Church of Christ a true gospel preacher. I feel that I must go back and unteach my many friends in the Baptist Church, so that I may teach them the pure gospel of Christ. As far as a denomination is concerned, the Free Will Baptist is far superior to the others, but I am thankful to God that I am no longer a member of a human denomination, but a member of the New Testament church.

I realize that it will be difficult for me to get readjusted as a gospel preacher, as I will no doubt use some old Baptist expressions, by the slip of the tongue; but by the help of God and my own brethren in the church of Christ, I shall acquire a vocabulary that I may speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.

Since leaving the Baptist Church I have been the recipient of much unjust, criticism from those with whom I was associated during my stay in that church. I should like to say that I have no ill-feeling whatsoever against Baptist. Personally, I have no reason for leaving the Baptist Church, but quite to the contrary if personal reasons counted, I

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## ONLY BELIEVE?

Marion Farley Jonesboro, Ark.

We hear it constantly, over the air and through the press.

So very many have been taught and retaught John 3;16, and similar passage [those that place special emphasis on believing], that they will contend earnestly, faith will save a person.

Anyone today, I care not who they may be, would have the same authority to claim that the Israelites, under the guidance of Moses, could have picked out just one of the Ten Commandments and kept it and still pleased Jehovah, and just as good chance of proving it as they would to prove that faith only will save. We have but to turn to the second chapter of James to see that such is untrue, for there he says that when we see a brother or sister in destitute circumstances and fail to give them necessary assistance, our faith is dead, being alone [possessing only faith].

Furthermore, to strengthen and fortify the "Twelve tribes scattered abroad" (Jas. 1-7) against false teaching of this nature, he brings to their minds the story of father Abraham, to prove that FAITH ONLY would not have been sufficient with even him who had the sacred honor of being known as the "Friend of God," (Jas. 2;23) but goes ahead to say, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed [had faith] and it was imputed to him for righteousness, and he was called the Friend of God. Ye

see then how that by works a man is justified, and NOT BY FAITH ONLY?" [Jas. 2;21-24]

And then, seemingly to make absolutely sure that not a single one of them, nor any after them, could possibly misunderstand, he makes a literal application that even a school boy or girl would need a great deal of help to misunderstand the lesson. He states in the last verse of the chapter, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also"

Most certainly faith is a must, but so are all of God's Commands.

It is of no more importance than hearing. How do I know this? Because of Rom. 10-17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Neither are these greater than confessing Christ as God's son as we find in [Rom. 10;9, 10], "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God 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."

But these are still not all that is required of an individual to put one into God's family, for in John 3, Jesus told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again—Born of the water and the spirit."

On the day of Pentecost, when the disciples of Christ had received the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised them, which was to guide them into all truth, Peter, being divinely guided upon that occasion, rebuked them for having taken the Son of God and crucifying him and after they had asked, "What shall we do?" replied, "Repent and be baptised

every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

But, says someone, does not Paul throughout the letter to the Romans, teach that works will not save? Certainly he does; but since the church there was composed of Jews and Gentiles and were being taught they could be justified by the works of the law of Moses, it was extremely necessary to show them their error and to point out to them that we are all children of God by faith and not by the works of the law (Old Testament) for Christ had taken it out of the way, 'nailing it to the cross.'

A religion that is void of works is a 'vain religion' as mentioned by James, for the same Lord that taught we must hear the word that faith might be produced, also taught that we must confess the name of Christ before men, repent of our sins, and be buried in water and rise to walk a new life.

Nothing short of this will make one a child of God.

If you are looking for just one word that will make you a Christian, it won't be Faith, it won't be Confession, or Repentance, or Baptism, but it will be OBEDIENCE.

It would be impossible to put too much emphasis on obedience for it is like a golden thread reaching from the first of Genesis through Revelation and on which man's eternal happiness all depends.

In I Samuel 15, when King Saul obeyed only the part of God's command to utterly destroy the Amalekites and all their possessions that he chose to, the prophet Samuel told him God

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## ONLY BELIEVE?

Marion Farley Jonesboro, Ark.

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had rejected him from being king for said he, "Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams (V 22)." This after Saul told him the bleating sheep and lowing oxen he heard were the best spared by the people and brought back to sacrifice to God.

Our service and obedience to God's limited by our love for him. "We love him because he first loved us." (Jno. 4:19)

Jesus told the inquiring scribe in [Mk. 12:29-31], "The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, there is none other commandment greater than these."

Solomon the wise man in Ecc. 12:13 sums it up in this phrase. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Jesus, in concluding what is termed the 'Sermon on the Mount,' had this to say to the multitude, 'Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.' (Matt. 7:21) Then in the next few verses he explained, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. . . And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and

doeth them not shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand"

Therefore, the ones that will hear "Come ye blessed of my Father" will be the ones that work and those that will hear "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire" will be those that work not.

Let us "Work while it is day the night cometh when no man can work." (Jno 9:4)

## THE BIBLE

C. H. Cavin—Sturkie

The Bible is composed of the Old and the New Testaments. A testament is a covenant, or an agreement. The Old Testament is the covenant God made with the children of Israel. It is sometimes called the law of the Lord and at other times it is called the law of Moses. It is called the law of the Lord because it was given by the Lord, and at other times it is called the law of Moses because it was through Moses that God spoke to Moses then he gave the law to the people Ex. 24:12.

From the Old Testament we learn the truth about the creation Gen. Chapter 1. We also learn of the first sin, Gen. chapter three; the story of the first murder and also the punishment Cain received for killing his brother. We also get an account of the flood, why it came, who were saved and how and why they were saved Gen. the six and seventh chapters.

We learn too, about the Israelites in Egypt, their being in bondage, their deliverance and 40 years of wandering in the wilderness the giving of the law, building of the tabernacle with the worship connected with it; and finally of their crossing the Jordan River and taking the

strong fortified city of Jericho and conquering Canaan. In all of this we notice the fact that when the people obeyed God, they prospered but when they disobeyed him they were punished. The most encouraging thing we learn is that Christ would come and through him all nations would be blessed. The Old Testament closes with these words, "Lest I come and smite the earth with a curse Malachi 4:6.

The New Testament is the covenant God made with all nations. It is also called the Law of the Lord Isaiah 2:3, it contains the gospel of Christ Mk. 1:1, had its beginning at Jerusalem Isaiah 2:3, Luke 24:44-49.

The word gospel means good news, this good news is, therefore, the gospel of Christ: because it brought to the world the good news that Christ died that man's sins might be forgiven 1 Cor. 15:3.

It is through the gospel that one learns of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Paul tells us that we are saved by the gospel 1 Cor. 15:1-3. He also says that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to them that believe Rom. 1:16, "then how dare some say it is a dead letter? It is dead to only them who do not believe it.

Christ being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him Heb. 5:9.

God be thanked that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you; being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. Rom. 6:17-18.

To Be Continued



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## THE CHURCH WHICH JESUS BUILT

Orbie Robbins..Elizabeth,

Jesus said upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Mt. 16:18. From this statement we learn three truths concerning the church which the Lord built, first it had not been built at that time, by the expression, I will build, second, it was to be his, my church and third he was to be the builder of it. (the church)

In the world today we have at least 300 different churches so in view of this the question would confront us, which one did Jesus build?

In order to know definitely which Church Jesus built there are three marks of scriptural identification, first it must have the right builder, second built in the right place, third built at the right time.

Christ was the right builder as shown by the following scriptures: Mt. 16:18, Eph. 1:23 Col. 1:18. Any other Church built by any builder other than Christ, cannot be the church which Jesus built. David said, "Except the Lord build the house they that build labour in vain." Ps. 127:1. Paul said, "His house is the church." 1 Tim. 3:15, and Jesus said, every plant which my Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up. Mt. 15:13.

As we have pointed out it must have been built in the right place. Jerusalem is the place. Zech 1:16: 1 Tim. 3:15. With those truths before us, any church built in any other place other than Jerusalem cannot be the church which Jesus built.

Now let us consider the third mark of identification the church which Jesus built must have been

built at the right time. Isa. 2:2-3, from this prophetic statement relative to the right time the prophet states that it would be built in the last days. In Acts chapter 2 we find the fulfillment of the prophecy. Act. 2:17 Peter said, "These are the last days". When did Peter make this statement? On the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection. Acts 2:1 Now let us sum up concerning the right time, (1) In the last days (2) On the first Pentecost after Christ resurrection the church which Jesus built came into existence in its established and operative state, and in view of these truths any church built before or after that time cannot be the church which Jesus built.

In conclusion how did people become members of it?

First they heard the facts of the Gospel. Acts 2:37 it is necessary to infer that they believed Act-2:36. Second they obeyed the commands of the Gospel. Acts 2:38 which included repentance and Baptism for the remission of sins.

What were the results which followed this kind of obedience? Act 2:41 then they that gladly received the word were baptized and that day three thousand souls were added unto them.

We are told then in Acts 2:47 the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Now we can see by this example that when people heard, believed and obeyed the gospel through virtue of their obedience, the Lord, not man added them to his church. If you are not a Christian then why not obey the same gospel and the same Lord will add you to the same church. The one, which Jesus built—Why not be safe instead of sorry.

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## NEWS

Mammoth Spring Lectures  
Feb. 1-6; 7:30 p. m.

Guest Speakers

Monday night F. M. Mills,  
Batesville, Ark.

Tuesday night L. N. Moody,  
Jonesboro, Ark.

Wednesday night Emmett  
Smith, Paragould, Ark.

Thursday night Frank Puckett,  
Calico Rock, Ark.

Friday night Walter C. Billingsley,  
West Plains, Mo.

Saturday night Harlan Hurd,  
Jonesboro, Ark.

Everyone is invited, Don't miss it.

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### On the Air

Each Sunday morning at 9 a m to 9:15 a m under direction of Mammoth Spring and Thayer Churches of Christ. Bro. Ira Woodward and Bro. Boyd Morgan on alternate programs. Tune in KALM, Thayer, Mo. 1290 on dial.

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The new baptistry at Mammoth Spring is installed. We invite all brethren to use it as needed and desired.

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Sunday afternoon Singings  
2 p. m.

Hardy 1st Sundays  
Mammoth Spring 2nd Sundays

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A Christian runs a great risk when he marries a sinner,

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It isn't so much whose wife you are but what kind of wife does the man where you live have.

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One of the qualifications of an elder is; that he is to be apt to teach....but some elders are apt to do anything,

## TO BE SAVED...THE BIBLE TEACHES;

That a man must have Faith:

1. We get faith by hearing. Rom. 10:17; Mark 16:15, 16.

Note: Faith is not miraculously given.

2. We must believe;

1. In God. Heb. 11:6

2. In Jesus as the son of God John 14:1

3. In the gospel. Mark 1:15; Mark 16:15, 16.

3. Faith alone will not save.

1. A man having faith without works can not be saved. James 2:14

2. Faith without works is dead. James 2:17

3. If Faith alone will save, then all the devils will be saved, for they believe. James 2:19.

4. Faith is made perfect by works James 2:22

5. We are not justified by faith only. James 2:24.

6. Faith is "UNTO" righteousness Rom. 10:10.

That a man must repent:

1. It is repent or perish. Luke 13:3

2. All men must repent. Acts 17:30

3. God desires a'l men to repent II Pet 3:9

4. Is for the remission of sins Acts 2:38.

5. Repentance is "UNTO" salvation. Acts 11:18.

That a man must confess Christ.

1. Reasons for making this confession.

(1). We confess Jesus for our salvation. Rom. 10:10

(2). We confess Jesus before men to be confessed before God. Matt. 10:32

(3). This glorifies God. Phil. 2:11

(4). Confession is "UNTO"

Salvation Rom 10:10.

That a man must be baptized.

1. Baptism is commanded. Mark 16:15, 16: Acts 2:38: Acts 10:48.

2. Baptism pleases God. Matt. 3:17.

3. Baptism is to accept the counsel of God. Luke 7:30

4. Baptism is to cleanse us. Eph. 5:26; Heb. 10:22

5. Baptism is to save us. I Pet. 3:21; Mark 16:16.

6. Baptism is to get into Christ, therefore into the church. Gal. 3:27; I Cor. 12:13.

7. Only one Baptism. Eph. 4:5

8. Baptism makes us children of God. Gal. 3:26, 27.

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## THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text Jno. 14:16-17

Lemuel Martin, Welcome Hill

1. What is the Holy Spirit?

First...It is a person: Eph. 4:30 I Tim. 4:1. Secondly the Holy Spirit is the truth, I Jno. 5:6, This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ, not by water only, but by water and blood, and it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is the truth. Third it is Eternal for in Heb. 9:14 we read, How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God; purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. And it is also singular, for as we look further we find in Eph. 4:4, there is one body and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

2. What are the works of the Holy Spirit? In the bible we find it is to reveal, Jno. 14:26, Eph. 3:5, I Tim. 4:1 to guide, Jno. 16:13 and Rom. 8:16 to help, Jno. 16:7 Rom 8:26 to intercede

Rom. 8:26, to begat Jno 3:5, to glorify Christ Jno 16:14, to resurrect Rom 8;11 and to seal Eph 1;13; 4:30

3. What can be done to the Holy Spirit? We can resist it, for as we read in Acts 7:51, 'Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart, and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your father did so do ye. It can be grieved Eph 4-30, It can be quenched I Thess 5:19. Or it can be received. For we read in Jno 20:22 and when he had said this; He breathed on them and saith unto them, 'Receive ye the Holy Ghost; Now the question arises. Who can receive is? Not the world, for as we read in John 14:17. Even the Spirit, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth: but ye know him; For he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. The only one who can possibly receive it is Christians, for in Acts 2:38, 'Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptised every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. How can we receive the Holy Spirit, first, one must hear. Gal. 3:2 Then we must believe Joo 7:39 and after hearing and believing you must obey, Acts 5:32 and we are his witnesses of these things and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God has given to them that obey Him.

No amount of prayer will bring the Holy Spirit to the disobedient Since the work of the Holy Spirit was to reveal and it, through the inspired discip'les, gave us the words of Christ. John 6:63 we receive the spirit when we harmonize our lives with its teaching,



## EDITORIAL

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would never have left, as most of my people and many of my friends are in that church. I sincerely believe that the Baptist people are, for the most part, splendid people. I believe that most of them are honest and sincere, and if they are shown the truth they will accept it just as I did.

Respectfully, yours in Christ,  
M. L. Lyndall

At the time of his conversion Brother Lyndall was preaching for a large Free Will Baptist Church. He has given up all financial support from the Baptists and lifelong friends to embrace the truth. God will bless him. This is just one of many instances. Just recently, in this section Bro. Stiff, preacher of the Christian Church, of Koshkonong, Mo. renounced his previous affiliations and embraced the truth. This was through radio preaching from West Plains.

Brethren read Heb. 5:12 and wield the sword of the Spirit to the salvation of lost souls and the glory of God.

### DRIFTING

Clovis Ragsdale, Moten

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to all the thing which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." Is a timely warning given by the writer of Hebrews in Chapter 2, verse 1. The Christians of today lives in a highly materialistic world, so many things to take up his time and thoughts. The danger of drifting away from God is a constant threat. We are reminded of an incident that is told concerning

wild ducks and geese which alight on the serene waters above Niagara Falls. They are unmindful of the danger that exists in the seemingly safe waters, but if they drift too close to the falls before they realize the danger a powerful current will sometimes suck them over and down the steep falls to their destruction.

Often Christians are prone to drift. Actually we take the course of least resistance. This course seems safe and easy but almost always has its "falls." The departure from the apostles doctrine was a slow process. Men just seemed to drift slowly away from the "old paths" and finally went over the falls in the complete apostacy of the dark ages.

This danger of drifting affects every person individually as well as congregations; and even whole generations.

Each Christian needs to be on guard and the elders need to be sure that the congregation takes earnest heed of the things taught in Gods Word, in order that they do not let them slip. It takes effort to be sure, but no one can expect to drift into heaven. Drifting always takes a downward course, To go upward always requires effort. Are you putting forth an effort in your work and service for your Lord. If not you are most likely drifting. This condition is very dangerous. In Hebrews 2:2-3 we are told. (For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing

them witness both with sighs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost according to his own will?"

When God gives a man a good wife and children to bless his home he is alright. But when the Devil gives him a society woman and a poodle dog, he is in a bad shape, he is a goner.

Society is a heartless old wretch; and if you don't get out of it you will go to hell with it

Whenever you think a preacher has wings you are mistaken.

The secret of a happy life is to do your duty and trust in God.

Some people think they can't be pious unless they are always begging for something.

Rec'd by Bro Woodward in the mail;

I wonder why Fate should impel me

To roam this land from coast to coast.

And yet find no one who can tell me

—What constitutes a "holy Ghost?"

—Jayamsee

J. M. C. fate has indeed dealt you trouble We suggest that you have been asking the wrong folks. Much error, that leads honest men seeking the truth to infidelity, is abroad in our land. Many religious claims constitute deception and fraud concerning the receiving directly the operation of the Holy Spirit to day. The following article will help you. However, there is no such thing as 'a Holy Ghost'. It is 'the Holy Ghost'. Just as our God is not a God, He is 'The God'.

## Questions and Answers

By

Ira G. Woodward

Q. We read in the Fulton County Gospel News where John the Baptist got his real name. The paper stated the reason he was called John the Baptist, he baptized people.

Where he got his real name, he baptized Jesus. Please publish this in your paper.

(Signed) Mr. and Mrs. Clough Barker

Viola, Arkansas

A. Matt. 3:1-3 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Matt. 3:13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John to be baptized of him.

We can see by the foregoing text that John was called John the Baptist while in the wilderness. Verse 6 says people were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. This was before he ever baptized Christ. Verses 11 and 12 describe Christ and verse 13 says Christ came to Jordan. Therefore Christ came to the same Jordan after verse 1 describes who was doing the preaching in the wilderness and this same John later baptizing in the river Jordan.

John was called John the Baptist before he baptized Christ, and we call it to the attention of our kind reader that the Bible nowhere says that he got his name when he baptized Christ. In fact many make the mistake of believing that his name is "John the Baptist." It is not.

His name is John and he was called John the Baptist, because he baptized.

Luke. 1:63 "And he asked for a writing table, and wrote saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all." This found heaven's favor as the mouth of Zacharias was loosed.

Q. Fulton County Gospel News I note you have the word "Soft-Pedaling" spelled wrong.

[Signed] Mr. Chadwell  
Mammoth Spring, Ark.

A. We stand corrected. Thanks.

Q. A certain person says Jesus did not have any brothers or sisters and said Matt. 13:55 means Joseph had children before Joseph and Mary ever married. They say that the Lord's mother never had any child except Christ.

(Signed) Mary Brown  
Walnut Ridge, Ark.

A. Matt. 13:55 is talking about brothers in the flesh or sons of Joseph and Mary.

Luke 2:7 "And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes." This verse indicates that Mary was the mother of more than one child and also indicates that Christ was the older of his brothers and sisters.

In truth, if as Matt. 13:55 refers, Jesus had no brothers or sisters related by Mary, these would only be stepbrothers and sisters. Not so, for Gal. 1:19 clears up the question, it says "But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother." This passage, does not mean brethren in the church, for all apostles were brothers in the church. Not only this, but Paul who said Gal. 1:12 he received his knowledge by revelation called James, the Lord's brother.

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mourner's bench. They don't believe in works, they say, but I've seen them march, pray, clap, shout, beat, and continue it far into the night, working up a sweat and excitement. They work far harder to get a sinner 'saved' [?] their way than many sincere devout true children of God. When the invitation is extended at the church of Christ and the believing person who has repented comes forward and confesses Christ before men and we take him to the water and baptise him, we are at home and oftimes asleep long before the 'altar workers' has got their man through. And these people are the ones who criticise us for works. Often after they have worked themselves down and the sinner isn't 'through' they dismiss, go home and rest and go back the next night and go to work again, preaching all the while that Works are not necessary.

God forbid that you should be misled.

## NOTES

1. If a man can be saved without baptism, then he can be saved by some way not laid down in the great commission. Mark 16: 15, 16.

2. If a man can be saved without baptism, Jesus made a mistake when he said, "Except a man be born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." John 3:5.

3. If a man can be saved without baptism, he can be saved without the Saviour. Gal. 3:26, 27.

If some people had an operation to remove their conscience, it would be only a minor operation