

# Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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## The Necessity Of The Assembly

Clovis Ragsdale

Some Christians ask the question, is it absolutely necessary for one to attend the Lords day worship service? One passage of scripture should settle this once and for all in the minds of any one willing to take the Bible as the source of authority. Heb. 10:25, states that Christians should not forsake the assembling of themselves together. If God's word says anything once then it would be binding on all to obey, yet we have other teachings in the Bible which teach the necessity of Christians coming together to worship. In Acts 20:7 the example of disciples coming together to break bread is made very plain. John mentions in I John 1:7 that we are to have fellowship one with another. There is a close relationship as people with the same aims, the same hopes, and the same faith work and worship together. While in the assembly we teach, admonish, and exhort one another. We do this in the singing of hymns, Col. 3:16. In the assembly on the first day of the week we are edified or built up, in the teaching of the Bible which is an important part of the worship. Christians are commanded to grow in faith, this can only be done by learning more of God's word. Paul said faith came by hearing and hearing by the word of God. It is in the Bible classes and through sermons preached from the pulpit on the Lord's day that most Christians learn of their duty in the vineyard of the Lord. This teaching serves as spiritual food which aids Christian growth. To miss this spiritual feast weakens one in much the same manner as to miss a meal in the physical realm of life. This can lead to spiritual exhaustion.

In the assembly we remember the death of Christ on the cross, keeping

## News Items

Bro. Clovis Ragsdale preached at Jeff the first Sunday in Nov. — Bro. Hylton preached at Agnos, Camp, and Liberty during the past month. He also went to Winona, Mo. the fourth Sunday afternoon.

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The church at Mammoth Spring is in the process of building new class rooms. They are badly needed. Classes have been reorganized, new classes added, and more space is necessary to continued growth. The work is being done by the men of the congregation meeting on Thursday nights.

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The church at Camp is in the process of conducting a short gospel meeting. The date: Nov. 21 thru 24. Bro. Bennett Land is doing the preaching.

We trust that the coming holiday season will be the happiest that you have ever known. And we pray that the coming year will see the fulfillment of all your dreams. May old friends get together, and be happy; and, may God receive the glory.

before us continually the event which makes all spiritual blessings possible. Also, we are to look forward to his coming again and this helps us to be prepared if Christ should return in our lifetime. We are taught to be ready for this coming at any and all times.

Finally, it is on this day that we are taught to lay by store as we have been prospered. 1 Cor. 16:2. If we fail to do this we are robbing God of what is rightfully his. Therefore we can conclude that we are to assemble on each first day of the week unless providentially hindered. This rules out missing services for company, fishing trips, sleeping late, and such like. If you have been careless in attendance think on these matters very seriously.

## Contributions Acknowledged

Church of Christ, Salem, Ark. ....	\$5.00
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Thanks again for your wonderful support of the paper. Present contributions are just about even with expenses. Increased circulation calls for additional expense as time passes, but we are confident that it will be forthcoming when needed. We ask your prayers in our efforts to preach the gospel through this medium.

The meeting at Winona, Mo. closed with one lady being baptized. Bro. Henry Casey of Mountain View, Mo. did the preaching . . . a large group of people from the Welcome Hill Church plans to attend the services at Winona the fourth Sunday in Nov. Bro. Hylton is to be there that afternoon. Why not make plans to visit and encourage them some Sunday afternoon soon. They meet at 2:00 and that would give you plenty of time to return for services at the home church on Sunday night.

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## An Impassioned Plea

Wesley Hylton

Matt. 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Here is the most gracious invitation ever received by man. Here is hope for those who seemingly have no hope; rest for the weary; and encouragement for the down-hearted. In this invitation we have the wonderful opportunity to lay our every burden on one who truly cares for us. And this with the complete assurance that His yoke is easy, and His burden light.

His gracious assurance that we will find rest unto our souls is remarkable. Especially is this true in view of the unrest so prevalent among our people today. Why should men and women be burdened with needless cares? All they have to do is call upon the Saviour!

It is evident that most have not accepted the Lord's invitation. They prefer to continue trying to extricate themselves from the evils of this present life through their own power. It isn't hard to see how they have miserably failed. The way of man is not in himself. He cannot direct his own footsteps. Jer. 10:23, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his own footsteps." Man needs divine guidance. Christ offers that, and much more. Why will we not accept it? Miserable creatures that we are, we often cannot see beyond the end of our nose.

Perhaps one of the reasons we refuse to take the Christ at His word is that

we are not meek and lowly in heart as He is. Have we too much pride to call upon someone else? Are we self-sufficient in all things? Pride may be a good thing in some instances, but if misused it only debases. "Pride goeth before a fall." Pride tends to puff us up, and make us think more of ourselves than we should. Such is not pleasing to God. We must humble ourselves before God, and trust Him completely for our every need.

Another reason for rejecting this wonderful invitation of Jesus could be classified as ignorance. This ignorance could be divided into two categories. Those who never heard this invitation of Christ and those who having heard fail to realize it's true significance. Those who have never been blessed with knowing of the Lord's invitation forcefully demonstrate the absolutely vital principles of the Great Commission. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Those who having heard the invitation refuse it are in a truly pitiful condition. The force of that refusal will be brought home to them a thousand times when they hear the words, "Depart, I never knew you." What a sad day that will be! Notice the words of Christ in Rev. 3:20, Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man will hear my voice, and open the door . . . Friends, these words force us to the conclusion, beyond the shadow of doubt, that Christ is not going to force himself on anyone. "If" we open the door, He will come in. If we fail to open the door, we deny ourselves the greatest blessing possible. Is Christ standing at the door of your heart? Have you denied His entrance? He wants to come in and dwell with you! He can bring you the better life that He has promised. "I am come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

How many times have you wanted to open the door and receive Him with gladness of heart, and then allowed some trifling impulses that motivate you? There are better things in life, and you can have them. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Carelessness is another reason for failure to accept the Lord's invitation. Many carelessly let their opportunities pass. They fail to realize that another may not come. Do you plan to become

a Christian? Then what are you waiting for? Today is the day of salvation! We have no promise of tomorrow. Are you an erring child of God that plans to be restored sometime in the future? Why waste time? Do it now! If you have been rendering only superficial service, do you plan doing greater things, and more of them, in the future? Where is the zeal you felt when you first obeyed? You were glad to have a burden lifted by having your past sins removed. Others will be too. You can help them. Are you completely unconcerned? Will no one pity the poor, lost, dying sinner?

Have you been attending services only on Sunday morning? Do you plan on coming Sunday night too sometime soon? Remember, others are watching you. Would you knowingly lead someone to hell? Your absence from services may be just the thing to get the Job done. The devil will be proud of you. If you haven't been attending Bible classes, and quiet a few haven't, do you plan to start soon? Then come on! We're waiting for you! Friends, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Do you have any assurance that you will be able to correct the mistakes in your life before the Grim Reaper comes for you? You shouldn't let another day pass before making it right with the Lord. Think how much better you will feel. What a burden will be lifted from your mind! "Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." Paul warns of the wrath to come. It is sure, and certain. We lose all, if we wait too long! The promise of Christ are sure. His yoke is easy; His burden is light. Jesus said a long time ago, "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think that ye have everlasting life, but there are they which testify of me; and ye will not come unto me that ye may have life." How tragic!

## Preach The Word

Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth, Ark.

A more solemn charge was never given to man than this charge which Paul gave to Timothy, a young gospel preacher.

This charge is equally applicable to all gospel preacher. And if it was strictly adhered to by all who profess to be preachers, that unity for which our Saviour prayed for in Jno. 17 could be attained and promoted among all pro-

fessed followers of Christ, and division would no longer exist.

Now let us consider what is included and implied in this charge, Preach the word.

When the great Persecution was waged against the Church Luke tells us that they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.. Acts 8:4.

In Acts. 8:5 Phillip went down into the City of Samaria and preached Christ. We are informed in Acts. 8:12 that when they believed Phillip preached the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ they were baptized both men and women.

When Phillip preached to the Eunuch, as recorded in Acts. 8:35 he preached Jesus.

Paul tells us in Eph. 1:13-14 to preach the word is to preach the Gospel.

Now let us sum up to preach the word is to preach Christ, to preach the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, to preach Jesus, and to preach the Gospel. These things are equal to each other and equal the same thing as preach the word.

Next let us consider the question why preach the word?

First because Christ commanded it. MK. 16:15-16. Second it pleased God to save people thru preaching 1 Cor. 1:21 Rom. 10:13-14 2 Cor. 4:7 Rom. 1:16 Rev. 15:1-4.

There is not one case of conversion on record in Acts of Apostles that differed in this respect. But in every case the word or Gospel was preached.

Now let us notice this question. What is accomplished on preaching the word?

Everything that men claim is accomplished by the Spirit separate and apart or distinct from the word can be shown to be accomplished thru the preached Word.

We are begotten thru the word of 1 Cor. 4:15, Jas. 1:18, 1 Pet. 1:22-25.

Quickened by the word Ps. 119:50, Jno. 6:63, Lk. 8:11.

The word purifies our hearts Acts 15:7-9, Mt. 5:8.

Purifies our souls, 1 Pet. 1:22; Converts Ps. 19:7.

We are sanctified by it Jno. 17:17, Jno. 8:31-32.

Made Clean Jno. 15:13.

It saves our Souls Jas.. 1:21-25.

It promotes spiritual growth 1 Pet.

2:1, Mt. 4.

It is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path as we journey toward Heaven Ps. 119:105.

In conclusion we should preach the Word because in and thro it are revealed the conditions of Salvation. Which are as follows:

Faith in Christ Jno. 8:24.

Repentance Lk. 13:3 Acts 17:30.

Confession Mt. 10:32-33, Rom. 10:8-10. Baptism Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:38, 1 Pet 3:21.

We must obey these commands to become a Christian.

We must continue in his Word to be saved eternally Jas. 1:24-25, Rev. 22:14.

To reject the Word, and refuse to obey will result in condemnation Jno. 12:48, 2 Thess. 1:6-8.

## Are You Cynical?

Eldred Stevens

Henry Ward Beecher said, "The cynic is one who never sees a good quality in a man, and never fails to see a bad one. He is the human owl, vigilant in darkness and blind in light, mousing for vermin, and never seeing noble game."

There is no unhappy human being than that one who is distrustful, cynical, and who can hardly think a happy positive, constructive thought because of preoccupation with what's wrong with everybody and everything. Cynicism has no place in the life of a true Christian.

We all have seen pictures of the early American "Puritan" with his cold, hard eyes and his down-at-the-mouth stern expression. He seemed to feel that the more sour and disgruntled his appearance, the stronger the evidence of his Christian character. He hardly ever thought in terms of what is right with people. Rather, it was always about what is wrong with people.

How different this attitude is from the sentiment of such verses as:

"He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth friends." (Prov. 17:9.)

"Love suffereth long and is kind . . . is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." (1 Cor. 13:4).

"Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice. Let your forbearance

be known unto all men." (Phil. 4:4-5.)

The New Testament pulsates with hope, optimism, love, faith, courage, kindness, trust in others. How tragic to be so dwarfed as to have neither the capacity to receive life's pleasures nor the unselfish wisdom to extend them to others! How sad to be leaving a gray atmosphere wherever one goes and in whatever one does!

One of the biggest problems in the church is cynics and cynicism. Our brotherhood is plagued by "crabby" brethren who never think positively, but always negatively. Such men's "meat and drink" is detecting and exposing what is wrong with everything.

Congregations are constantly upset by cynical members whose forte is dropping remarks or asking questions that spread a feeling of pessimism and discontent. They are concerned with what's wrong with the church program, what's wrong with the preacher's work, what's wrong with the mission program, etc. Whenever they have opportunity, they drop one of their "smoke bombs" to cast a shadow where brightness might be. Such people are to be pitied because cynicism is a character defect evidencing a weakness in one's mental structure. However, pitiable or not, they present a real problem as they seek to make others as suspicious, pessimistic and unhappy as they are.

Cynicism is a ball and chain to the church. Success is built upon a foundation of trust, good friends, tolerance, appreciation, optimism, kindness.

A Sioux Indian Chief's constant prayer was, "Great Spirit, help me never judge another until I have walked two weeks in his moccasins."

### IT'S BETTER TO TRY

It's better to try and fail at last,  
Than say the need for trying is past  
It's better to have a goal and fail,  
Than say you need no goal at all.  
It's better to get a job half done,  
Than have a job you've never begun.  
It's better to do the best you can,  
Than to admit you never begun.  
It's better to start and suddenly die.  
Than have men say, "He did not try."

### MAILING ADDRESS

Send all correspondence to Wesley Hylton, P. O. Box 237, Mammoth Spring, Ark. Questions and comments are invited.

# A Second Look At The Book Of Job

Bob Hilburn  
Hardy, Ark.

Every day while looking around us, we can see the marvelous works of God. Many of these things have challenged scientists for hundreds of years, and many still remain a mystery to them today. In the Bible we find a number of scientific facts set forth by our heavenly father in the ages past which have only recently been discovered by man. The book of Job is an example in that it is one of the most outstanding books of science in existence today. The outstanding aspect of Job is that the scientific principles presented therein were given to man approximately 3475 years ago; or about 3,000 years before any were known to man.

In our last article under this title we studied of God's presentation of the **chemical process of chlorophyl, (Job 3:16) the void place in the North, (Job 26:7) and the fact that the earth was hanged upon nothing. (Job 26:7)** — (See article in September issue).

In Job 28:25, we have some other facts presented which prove the inspiration of the Bible. Here we find Job saying that God made the "Weight for the winds", and that he "Weigheth the Waters by measure." Air DOES have weight! Recently it was discovered that at 15 pounds pressure per square inch conditions are just right for life. To add to, or to take away from this pressure creates problems in breathing. These problems are currently being studied in connection with living beings leaving the earth's atmosphere in space flight. In Job's time what instruments did he possess to do this checking with? The only logical conclusion is that God inspired him to write this.

What about Job's statement concerning the waters by measure? Is it possible that Job could have realized that the amount of evaporation from the waters of the earth determined the amount of rain and snow to be placed back upon the earth? (Amos 5:8) It is a scientific fact that if we received more moisture upon the earth than is evaporated from it, all bodies of water would soon fill to overflowing. If we had **half again** as much water upon the earth

it would almost cover it's surface, while on the other hand if we had **only half** the water which we now have, most of the earth would be a barren desert due to the lack of rain. Only GOD could have known this at that time. He created the earth and set up these principles for man's existence.

In **Job 29:6**, he speaks of the **rocks pouring out rive's of oil**. This is referred to again in **Deut. 32:13**. How could Job have known of the great pools and rivers of oil located within the rocks below the surface of the earth? He had no drilling equipment to drill down to it; neither did he have modern instruments to check these oil deposits for size. Keep in mind that Job was not speaking of small streams of oil flowing from the surface, but of **RIVERS** of it. Only the creator who placed these deposits in the earth could have known of their presence.

Could **you** have known of these facts before God or science revealed them? It is only logical to conclude that Job could not have known it either. The book of Job is inspired of God, which fact leaves no question as to his existence. Next month we will have the fifth and final article in this series of studies upon this subject. We invite you to look for it.

## Who are Alien Sinners

By Delton Haun

There are two groups of sinners. One includes all children of God who sin and the other includes all other sinners. The second group is made up of "alien" sinners since they are sinners who have not become citizens of Christ's kingdom. See Eph. 2:11 for "alien".

God's children may sin (Acts 8:13-22). God pardons His children when they repent and ask forgiveness (Acts 8:22). When God's children sin they do not have to become children of God over again. They are sinners but not alien sinners.

Alien sinners must obey the gospel to be pardoned of past sins and to become children of God. Believing God's word they must repent (Acts 2:38), confess their faith (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37), and be baptized INTO Christ (Gal. 3:27). Having done this they are no longer aliens but citizens of Christ's spiritual kingdom.

Who are alien sinners? They are not ac-

countable souls as are infants. No one inherits guilt from his parents for which he must give account in the judgment. No one is lost for another's sins (Ezek. 18:20). Infants are incapable of sinning or obeying. They have done nothing for which to repent. They are incapable of obeying from the heart (Rom. 6:17). They are safe. No one can be saved until he is first lost. Obviously, some will reach accountability sooner than others and some may never reach it.

Only accountable souls become sinners. Any act of disobedience on the part of an accountable soul makes him a sinner (Ezek. 18:29). A disbelief in Christ condemns (Jno. 3:18). Disbelieving he becomes an alien sinner. He needs Christ and must obey the gospel (2 Thess. 7:9). Upon obedience he is pardoned through Christ's blood. He has become a child of God, a citizen of the kingdom. It is his then to live a faithful life.

### 'AT JESUS FEET. . .

The life of Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, is painted for us by the Gospel in three vivid pictures. In each appearance, Mary is found at the feet of Jesus. When Jesus visited in their home, Mary sat at His feet and heard His words; she chose the "one needful thing," the "good part," by listening to the Lord's words rather than worrying over material things as did her sister. (Lk. 10:38-42.) In the second scene her brother had died, and Mary fell at His feet saying, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." Minutes later, our Lord having wept also, this appeal for sympathy and help was answered by the resurrection of Lazarus, who had been dead four days. (John 11:32-46.) In the third instance, Mary anointed Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair; with discernment, she anointed the Lord's feet at the supper in Bethany "against the day of his burying." (John 12:1-9.) Rebuked in the first instance by Martha and in the third by Judas, Mary yet realized the importance of serving and learning at Jesus' feet.

What better description could be given of one's life — what greater tribute — than to be pictured in each appearance at the feet of Jesus. One fearful day every knee shall there bow and every tongue shall there confess. Why not **this day** fall at the feet of Jesus in **obedience** to gospel commands?

Harold Hazelip,  
"Religious Reminder"