

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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Permit No. 1
Sec. 3465 P. L. & R.

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

August, 1957

SALVATION

Tom L. Stark Moten

1. FAITH: What is Faith? It is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.. Is faith a work? Yes, we are told in John 6:25, Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he has sent. Does this not show that faith is a work? Is faith a full persuasion? Rom. 4:20,21, he staggered not at the promises of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God, fully persuaded that, what he promised he is able to preform.

2. REPENTANCE: What is repentance It is a change of will. A good example is found in Matt. 21:28,29. But 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 afterward he repented and went. Repentance is not Godly sorrow alone, but is also a change of will.

3. CONFESSION: This means to acknowledge. Christ commanded his disciples to go teach all nations, and baptize the believers. Matt. 28:18-20. Before one can be baptized he must be a believer, and in confessing Christ he makes that best known. When the man from Ethiopia wished to be baptized, the preacher, Phillip, consented to baptize him if he were a believer. Acts 8:36-38

4: BAPTISM. Baptism is a burial, and a coming forth a creature. Who is to be baptized? Those who have taken these previous steps. Those who have reached the age of accountability. I Peter 3, 19-21. By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison, which sometimes were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, where in few, that is eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These conditions would exclude infants who could

have no conscience until they were old enough to understand right from wrong. When one is obedient to these things he is saved from past sins and is a child of God and can wear the name Christian.

THE CHURCH AT PILOT

This congregation is located eight miles south of Mammoth Spring on the Saddle road. Myatt creek flows less than two hundred yards from the church building. It was impossible to find anyone alive who knew just when this congregation actually came into existence. A group of brethren were meeting in a log school house in 1880, but how long before this we do not know. Brother Marion Humphrey is the first leader that we have record of and he continued to worship here for over fifty years. His brother, T. F. Humphrey served the church as a leader also.

Many gospel preachers held meetings at this place and hundreds of people obeyed the gospel during these productive meetings. Some of these were Bros. Welch, Rose, Taylor, Anderson, Spillar, Perry Connors, Amos Lemmons, Joe Blue, Bynum Black, W. A. Goodwin, Joey Nichols, Ado Osburn, John Weaver, John Howard, Gussie Lambert, Leroy Miller, Boyd Morgan, Huey Hartsell, C. Ray Miller, Obert Henderson and Lowell Blasingame.

Brother B. M. Lemmons moved to this community about the year 1906, and preached many times at Pilot, baptizing many people as well as conducting a great number of funerals and weddings. Others to preach at Pilot on occasions were T. D. Garner, Marion Williams, Riley Martin, John Powell, and Mitt Garner.

In 1906 a church building was erected which stood until the new building was erected some four or five years ago. It is one of the best constructed country buildings to be found in this section of the state. Ample class rooms have been added recently.

The attendance averages about sixty each Lord's day. For the past year they have had preaching almost every Sun-

day. The congregation stands as an example of Christian unity. The church is prospering in every way. A meeting with brother Blasingame closed only a few days ago with 7 baptized. Brother Marvin Powell of Lanton closed a singing school just before the meeting which was very successful. A large number of young people and children attend worship here, giving hope for even a more abundant future. In its more than seventy five years of history, the numbers of souls baptized would run to several hundreds. Many of these people have passed on or moved away, yet Pilot continues to grow and abound in the work of the Lord. Carl Smith and Arvy Powell serve as Elders. Arch Humphrey and Luke Haney lead singing and teach classes.

HEBREWS 11:6

But without faith 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. This verse is found in a chapter which is noted for its examples of faith in the lives of Old Testament characters. The writer was showing the necessity of faith in those who would be pleasing in the sight of God. In this verse he plainly states that without faith it is just impossible to please him, but many may have overlooked one word in this verse which is important to every christian. This word is the word dilligently. Notice that God has promised to reward those who have the faith to seek him, provided that we seek him dilligently. For a definition of this word we must call upon Mr. Webster. We are told that it means constant effort to accomplish what is undertaken. To be industrious. Not to neglect. Does this describe how you are living? Are you steadfast in serving the Lord? Are you giving your best to his service Are you careless and neglectful of many of your duties, such as attending worship services, giving as prospered, or studying his word as often as you should The reward is promised (See HEBREWS Last Page)

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

Published Monthly

Free Subscription

Supported by Moten, Welcome
Hill and Union Hill churches

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DOCTRINE

By Clovis Ragsdale

There is much confusion in the minds of people today concerning doctrine. One often hears the expression by many of the famous radio preachers that they are non-doctrinal. They make much over the fact that they stress faith and not doctrine. This leaves the impression that doctrine is not necessary, and should even be avoided. Is this attitude in keeping with the teachings of the Bible? I think that we can learn beyond a shadow of doubt that it is not.

Many will ask the question, what is doctrine? The dictionary defines doctrine as a principle, view, or set of opinions maintained or set forth by a person or set of persons. The word doctrine is mentioned less than a dozen times in the Old Testament but is found about fifty times in the New Testament. It is found for the first time in the New Testament in Matt. 7:28., where we are told that the people were astonished at the doctrine of Jesus after he had completed the sermon in the mount. duces. By this we can see that there are forth by Christ was doctrine.

In Matt. 16:12 Jesus warns against the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees. By this we can see that there many different doctrines. In Matt. 15:9 our Saviour states that many would worship him in vain, because they would teach for doctrine the commandments of men. We can see that this condition still exists today. Even those who claim to stress faith and leave off doctrine are teaching a doctrine when they make this claim, for they are expressing their opinion on the matter and that is a doctrine. What then should be our attitude toward doctrine? In Acts 2, we learn about three thousand people who after they had answered the first gospel invitation and were baptized, continued steadfast in the apostles doctrine, and

fellowship, in breaking of bread and in prayers.

Then the doctrine that we need to heed today is that given by the Apostles who were divinely inspired men. Their views and opinions were given unto them by the Holy Ghost and were from Heaven itself. Many today will not accept their doctrine because they do not agree with some of the points of doctrine such as, the necessity of baptism, observance of the Lord's supper each first day of the week, the position of women in the Church, the need for Elders, the possibility of apostasy, and many other things.

We today have no choice in matters pertaining to doctrine. We are commanded to keep the doctrine as taught by Christ and his apostles and to avoid all others, because they would have to be the ideas and opinions of men. Because men have not heeded the teachings of Christ on this matter we have the confusion and division that is now so evident.

FACTS TO FACE

The CHURCH OF CHRIST was founded by Christ through His apostles who spoke (or taught) "as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 1:8; 2:4; I Pet. 1:12.)

It was founded in Zion, or Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2,3; Luke 24:46, 47; Acts 2: 1-47.) It was founded 30 A. D. or on the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection.

Its terms of membership were:

1. Faith (Heb. 11:6; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 8:37.)
2. Repentance (Luke 13:3; 24:47; Acts 2:38.)
3. Confession (Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9,10; Acts 8:37.)
4. Baptism (Matt. 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38.)

Its members were required to live Godly lives and meet for worship on the first day of the week (Titus 2:12; Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25.)

It was destined to include and consist of all God's children, Christians, who were the only members, and over whom Christ was to reign as head. Hence it was the "one body" of Christ. Eph. 4:4; 5:23, 1:21,22; Col. 1:18,24; Rom. 12:4,5; I Cor. 12:12,28.)

The Roman Catholic Church was founded by Justinian, not by Christ.

It was founded in Rome, Italy, not in

Jersusalem.

It was founded about 325 A. D., not 30 A. D.

It is, therefore, 295 years too late to be the church of Christ.

The Lutheran Church was founded by Martin Luther, not by Christ.

It was founded in Wittenburg, Germany, not in Jerusalem.

It was founded 1521 A. D. not 30 A. D.

It is, therefore, 1491 years too late to be the church of Christ.

The Episcopal Church was founded by Henry VIII, not by Christ.

It was founded in London, England not in Jerusalem.

It was founded 1534 A. D. not 30 A. D.

It is, therefore, 1504 years too late to be the church of Christ.

The Presbyterian Church was founded by John Knox, not by Christ.

It was founded in Edinburg, Scotland, not in Jerusalem.

It was founded 1587 A. D. not 30 A. D.

It is, therefore, 1557 years too late to be the church of Christ.

The Baptist Church was founded by John Smyth, not by Christ.

It was founded in London, England, not in Jerusalem.

It was founded 1607 A. D. not 30 A. D.

Mr. Benedict, (a noted Baptist Historian says: "The first regularly organized Baptist church of which we possess any account, is dated from 1607, and was founded in London by a Mr. Smyth who had been a clergyman in the church of England." — (Benedict's history of the Baptist Denomination in America and other Parts of the world.)

It is, therefore, 1577 years too late to be the church of Christ.

The Methodist Church was founded by John Wesley, not by Christ.

It was founded in Oxford, England, not in Jerusalem.

It was founded 1729 A. D. not 30 A. D.

Mr. John Wesley says: "On Monday, May 1, our little society began in London; but it may be observed that the first rise of Methodism, so called, was in November, 1729, when four of us met at Oxford." (Wesley's Works, Vol. 7. p. 348.)

It is, therefore, 1699 years too late to

be the church of Christ.

Any church that was not funded by Christ and the apostles in Jerusalem, 30 A. D. or on the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection can not be the church of Christ.

HEAR HIM

A very interesting experience happened to Peter, James and John during the personal ministry of Jesus. Jesus had taken them with him into the mountain alone, and while there, Jesus was transfigured, and Moses and Elijah made their appearance on the scene. Having seen this, Peter said to Christ: "Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Of course he thought this was the thing to do, honor all three equally. To few of us know how to give honor to whom it is due. But the Lord gave reply from heaven that changed Peter's thinking. A cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved son: hear him."

This was, in a sense, a rebuke to Peter. Peter, like the rest of us, thought to hold on to former things, and to refuse to hear the latter voice of God. Moses had been a great lawgiver, and Elijah had been one of the greatest of prophets, yet their voice was not to continue to give instructions to the sons of men. In God's plan, a greater than Moses or Elijah has arisen, and we are to turn to this lawgiver. Even Moses knew that fifteen hundred years before Christ began to speak to men as a lawgiver. Moses said: "Another prophet like unto me shall the Lord of God raise up unto you of your brethren; him shall you hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you." (Acts. 3:22.) Peter said that "All the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken have likewise foretold of these days."

It is indeed a mystery why men, in face of Bible teaching, are not able to see that we are to listen to Christ as final authority in this dispensation. But to recognize Christ as final authority in all things, we must remember that he speaks only through the New Testament writings. What Christ has authorized has been penned by the inspired writers of the New Testament. Jesus told the apostles: "He that receiveth whomsoever I

send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me." (Jno. 13:20.) Again he said: "He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me." (Lu. 10:16.) In whatsoever the apostles of Christ speak we are to hear them. In so doing we hear Christ, and we also hear God. When Christ says, through the apostles, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," one must do this if he hears Christ. To refuse this is to refuse to hear Christ. Many are guilty here of refusing to hear Christ.

THE ELDERSHIP

No greater responsibility over rested upon any man than that which rests upon the elders of the church. They are a plurality of men commissioned by our Heavenly Father to be the pastors and shepherds of the flock in any locality. They watch for our souls. These men must be good men, full of a love for the church and for the welfare of souls. They must have certain qualifications. These qualifications, if possessed, will render any elder worthy of double honor. These qualifications make the office of an elder an exemplary office. He leads by the very example he sets.

Not only so, but an elder is charged by Jehovah God with looking after the souls of those who comprise the congregation of which he is an elder. The task is not hard—if the elders had only to care for those who are faithful. It would indeed be a pleasure if the task concerned only those who could always be counted on to be there and to be at work. But the elders are charged with the rest of us. The work must be strengthened. The fallen must be lifted. The ignorant must be enlightened. The elders must be concerned with those who are not concerned with themselves. After you let yourself go, the elders must not let you go. They must not lose faith in you, even after you have lost faith in yourself.

The elders must not only save themselves; they must if at all possible, save you: Your faults they are duty bound to point out and correct. They not only have to teach you what the Bible says, but they are charged with getting you to do it.

An elder is not perfect. He isn't even immune from criticism. But there is

no reason why "open season" should be declared on a man as soon as he is selected to serve as an elder. The scripture says "against an elder receive not an accusation, except at the mouth of two or three witnesses." When an elder for your soul's sake, seeks to strengthen or correct you, it is because he loves you and because God has charged him with doing it. This should give no offense to any child of God, and should not be the occasion of one's turning loose a mouth of venom upon the elder who attempts the correction.

All the work of the church is directly under the oversight of the elders. They are always open to suggestions, but not duty bound to abide by them. An elder must listen to the church, but then must use the judgment that is his to follow the course that he believes to be right. The elders strive constantly to build up the church. They need your loyalty; they need your support; they need your help.

—Reuel Lemmons, Editor, Firm Foundation

"A gossip is a person who knows a great deal about a very little, and who goes along knowing more and more about less and less, until finally he knows practically everything about nothing."

If you don't need the Lord: Quit breathing his air and drinking his water; quit plowing His ground and eating His bread; quit warming by His sunshine and cooling by His breeze.

"Obey them that have rule over you, and submit to them: for they watch in behalf of your souls . . . that they may do this with joy, and not with grief." (Heb. 13:17).

A Hobby-rider is a man or woman that tries to bind an incidental on the church as the law of the Lord. In Acts 15:1-35 we have the history of a group of hobby-rides who tried to BIND circumcision and the law of Moses on the Gentile Christian. The apostles, and elders and brethren in the Jerusalem church said that they were troublers and subverters subverting your souls.

HEBREWS

only to those who serve him steadfastly and to the best of their ability, This should cause all who want to have a home in Heaven to realize that we cannot have this great reward if we are living a part time, halfhearted kind of life.

THE POWER OF THE WORD

Marion Farley Dalas 17, Texas

Let us study about the power of the word of God in it's different forms.

For a beginning, we will consider the spoken word.

In the first chapter of Gen., we find this statement, "and God said," nine times, and it came to pass each time, just as God said, when said "let there be light," there was light, . . . and when he said "let us make man in our own image," this was also done.

At the grave of Lazarus, after he had been dead for four days, the power of Jesus' word was demonstrated, Martha had met him before he came to the tomb, and lamented, "Lord if thou hadst been here my brother had not died," Jesus assured her that Lazarus would rise, she misunderstood, saying, "I know he will rise at the ressurection," but was told, "I am the ressurection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live," and at the tomb he said with "a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth," and he came forth bound in graveclothes, and was released from them (Jno 11)

Not only did the dead hearken to the voice of the Son of God, but the blind, lame, and those stricken with different diseases, were made whole at the word of the Master, even the elements were obedient to his command, in (Matt. 8) he and his disciples were crossing the sea of Galilee, and there arose a great storm, Jesus was asleep in the ship,, the disciples became very much alarmed for their safety, awaking him, they said, "Lord save us, we perish," he arose and "rebuked the winds," and there was a "great calm," the men were so amazed they said, "what manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

But, the power of the written word, is just as effective, to those who believe God.

The wonderful illuminating power of God's word is so ably described by the

Psalmnist in these two passages, "The entrance of thy words giveth light" (Ps. 119:130), and "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105).

It is described also as being able to cause a person to turn (be converted) from his evil ways.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" (Ps. 19:7), The same thought is conveyed in (Jas.1:21), "receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save yoursouls."

The Savior said in (Jno. 15:3), "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you," and in (I Pt. 2:1,2) the apostle Peter shows to us the importance of the word to the Christian, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."

It should be apparent to all who study God's word with an open heart, that God's word is God's word, whether spoken or written, and if we are to stand justified in the day of judgment, when the "books are opened," we will necessarily have to accept it as such, and have our lives governed thereby.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Welcome Hill

Marvin Ed Berry

I Peter 2:1,2 Wherefore laying aside all malice and all guile, hypocrises, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word ,that ye may grow thereby:

The verses tell us that as newborn babes we should desire the sincere milk of the word. When we have obeyed the gospel and are born in to the family of God, we should want to learn more of his will so we might someday enter into heaven.

Christian life is one of development. If we fail to eat food we will not grow physical and if we fail to partake of the spiritual food (the word of God) we will not grow spiritual.

Lack of appetite is a danger signal. If we have no appetite for the physical food we go to the doctor to see what is wrong. If we have no appetite for spiritual food this is also a danger signal and we should go to the word of God. Here Christ is our doctor in spiritual things. Sin is the thing that de-

stroys the appetite. After putting off sin and obeying the word of God through Christ we desire the sincere milk of the word.

Exercise is an important thing in the physical realm and also in the spiritual realm. We must work or exercise the work of the Church if we expect to grow. 2 Peter 3: 18 but grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to him be glory both now and forever.

We must have the proper atmosphere. In I Cor. 15:33 we read "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manner." This does not mean we cannot talk to sinners, but that we cannot partake of the same. Not to be companions with them in their sins.

How can a person tell if he is growing spiritual or not? Well we have many ways to tell if we are growing physical. We measure our height and weigh our bodies, and we look into the mirror. The word of God is our measuring stick, our scales, and our mirror to see if we are growing spiritual.

As a child of God we are to grow in many ways. A few of these are. We grow by giving, I Cor. 16:2, II Cor. 9:7. We grow by studying the word of God, II Tim. 2:15. In summing it up we grow by doing what the word of God through Christ has commanded us to do. Are you growing spiritually, search the scripture and see.

Brother Harlin Hurd began a meeting at Sturkie on August 28 to run through the 8 of September. This meeting had previously been set for the last part of July.

The Heart congregation lost one of its ablest leaders, when brother Bob Clinton passed away. Our sympathy is extended to sister Clinton and family.

Burks Chapel closed a very successful meeting with 13 baptized the latter part of July. Charles Coil did the preaching.

Brother Erwin Cowan preached at Mammoth Spring on the second Sunday in August. Brother Blackwell was away in a meeting.

Three were baptized at Liberty Hill during the meeting conducted by brother Dye.