

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Mammoth Spring, Ark.

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"ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN" (Heb. 8:5)

Marion Farley — Dallas, Texas
We learn by a careful study of God's eternal truths that He has from the very beginning made, and required his servants to make, after a pattern.

When he formed man from the dust of the earth, He made him in his own likeness, "After his own image", that is, he 'patterned' him after God.

When the people of the earth became so corrupt that God decided to destroy them from the face of the earth, having found one righteous person in whom he could confide, he made known to him his intentions.

He told Noah that all civilization was to be wiped off the earth, and that since he had found grace in his eyes, he was to be saved, he and his family, also all kinds of beasts, and living creatures, but for him to build an Ark to preserve them from the waters that were to completely engulf the earth, even to the highest mountains.

But this great boat was to be built after a 'Pattern,' Noah was informed of the exact length, width, and height. Also that it was to have first, second, and third stories. It was to have only one door and one window, and was to be built of 'Gopher wood'. "Thus did Noah according to ALL God commanded him." (Gen. 6:22).

Some 70 years after the death of Joseph, there 'arose another king that knew not Joseph', and the descendants of Jacob began to be grievously afflicted by the Egyptians. In the course of time God heard their cry and sent Moses to lead them back to the land of Canaan.

During their 40 years of wandering in the Wilderness, God told Moses to go up on the mountain of Sinai and there he would be given the law, written on tables of stone. He also gave him the dimensions of the Tabernacle, and, said he, "See that thou make all things according to the pattern."

By reading the 25th, 26th, and 27th chapters of Exodus, you can draw an idea of the extremely difficult task given to Moses, and a picture of the beautiful tabernacle with its furnishings.

Since such extreme care was used in following a 'pattern' in these, it should not be too difficult to understand why the CHURCH, the last and most important of all things to have a 'pattern', should have preeminence over these. Men in attempting to change the 'pattern' given to the Apostles, who had walked with the Saviour for three and one half years, and had been Divinely inspired to set it (the church) into operation, are attempting entirely too much authority, when they attempt to add anything to it, or leave anything out, that God has commanded, inferred, or given as example of.

Since the Ark was typical of the church, we will just use it as an example of the trouble God would have had with some of the 'Modernists' had they been in Noah's place.

In the first place (by the dissatisfaction they manifest in His words) they wouldn't have wanted to use Gopher wood, reasoning, "as they do in other matters pertaining to religion," God hasn't said, "Thou shalt not," and therefore it IS alright. Neither did God say, "Thou shalt not use any other kind of wood," but surely no one thinks He would have been satisfied with anything else.

Next they would have argued long and loud that they were not saved by water, nevertheless Peter in 1 Peter 3:21 says, "The like figure whereunto baptism DOTH ALSO NOW SAVE US", referring to those saved in the Ark. Neither would they have admitted that the Ark had anything to do with your salvation. In other words, just choose for yourself among the hundreds (about 300) operating today, many not having the least resemblance, to the Apostolic church, it is regrettable to say.

Then another 'Reasoning' of theirs is, that the instant you believe, you are saved, then and there, I ask you, was that the way Noah was saved? Was he? If he had waited for God to do the rest, what do you think would have happened to him? Oh, someone says that would be by works. I know, but did not James say "Faith without works is DEAD, being ALONE?"

Many other innovations could be cited, but these should be sufficient

to point out the dangers of not following God's PATTERN, and following the patterns of men.

PROOF FROM BAPTIST THAT BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION

Of all the people in the religious world, I suppose, the Baptist people are the most outspoken against the idea that baptism is in anyway essential to ones salvation. They preach continually that baptism has nothing to do with our salvation and are quick to condemn those who say that it does. Some of their preachers will even sign propositions stating that it has absolutely nothing to do with our eternal destiny. Of course, we know they are very inconsistent in this since they wear it as a name and use it as a dividing line between the Baptist Church and the rest of the world. But sometimes their preachers make statements which indicate that they do believe in it after all. Here are some of them.

"Baptism is a line of demarkation that separates us from the world and saves us from the reproach of sin." (L. S. Ballard, Baptist in Ballard-Borden debate, page 139). How could one possibly state the essentiality of baptism more clearly than that? If it is the line that divides us from the world and sin it must be essential to salvation.

"... but it (baptism) is essential to obedience since Christ has commanded it. It is also essential to a public confession of Christ before the world, and to membership in the church which is His body. And no true lover of his Lord will refuse these acts of obedience and tokens of affection." (Standard Manual for Baptist Churches, by Edward T. Hixcox, 1946, page 21). Please note that the Manual states that baptism is "essential" to something. The word "essential" means: "Absolutely necessary; indispensable; a chief point." Then if it is essential, men cannot be saved without it. But that isn't all the Manual says. Note the following:

1. "It is essential to obedience." But **obedience** is essential to salvation. Read Mat. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9; Rom. 6:17-18; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; James 2:19-26; Acts 10:35; and Rev. 20-12. Therefore, if baptism is essential to

Continued on back page

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Correction: The name under
 the article footwashing should
 be W. O. Stroud instead of W. O.
 Stewart.

EDITORIAL

The church at Camp, Ark., the youngest church now in Fulton County being established last summer, has experienced some difficulty in the present meeting place. The pulpit and communion table has been moved from the auditorium on some occasions. The table top removed from the table. As always in community houses, some concessions must be accepted and some made. Some report they do not attend because of where services are held. Of course, this attitude should never be held by the true worshippers of God.

The church desires its own building in which to meet. A lot, very favorably located in Camp, has been purchased for \$200. The Camp brethren have paid \$100 of this amount. They ask help of the brethren in paying off the lot and building a house in which to meet. The purchase was made March 10 and to my knowledge eight dollars was contributed by three interested brethren that day who were present at the Mammoth Spring lecture. The church has been further blessed by a generous offer of Bro. Hubert Taylor to construct the building free of charge. This means the church will not be out any money for labor.

Here are the plans at present:

1. To pay off the lot. Any money contributed will first be used to pay off the \$100 due. At this writing eight dollars have been contributed to this end.

2. To construct on the back portion of the building site a concrete block building approximately 14'x24'. The front side of the building will

be boxed up so later this boxing can be removed and swinging doors installed. The brethren will meet in this building. The cost of such a building will total only approximately \$800.00.

3. The Camp brethren can later, as they are able, build for themselves an auditorium on the front of the present planned building and use this portion for classrooms.

4. To build the present planned building of approximately 14'x24' is the urgent need.

This, brethren are asked to help them do, at present the Camp brethren are meeting in the community building (old school house) at 2 p. m. each Lord's day.

It is my suggestion that brethren throughout the county, or anywhere, take up the matter and send a contribution to Bro. Ike Dawson, Camp, Arkansas.

Last month's appeal for help to the paper resulted in the following contributions: Viola, \$5.00; Sister Shepherd, \$5.00; Jack Ester, \$1.00; Jack Fox, \$1.00, and \$5.00 from a reader who desires his name withheld. So we go to press again for the 27th month. It is hoped that some congregation or congregations will support it regularly for the amount deficient. The amount needed is \$15 monthly. Twelve hundred issues are distributed free to the readers each month. If brethren think this work worthy we ask support, but only if counted worthy.

—Boyd E. Morgan

NAME THE CHURCH

1. It was founded by John Wesley, in 1739 A. D.

2. It has a creed known as a "Discipline" which contains twenty-five "Articles of Religion."

3. They teach that the Old Law was not contrary to the New.

4. Up to 1910 their Discipline read: "All men are conceived and born in sin."

5. Since 1910 their Discipline reads: "All men, though fallen in Adam, are born into this world in Christ the Redeemer."

6. Article 9 of their religion says, "Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort."

7. They teach that a child of God can sin so as to be lost.

8. They baptize by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.

9. They teach that the baptism of

young children is to be retained in the church.

10. They usually take the Lord's Supper once each quarter.

11. They teach that the Church is composed of many branches, of which they are one.

12. They teach that a man "cannot turn and prepare himself" and that he "has no power to do good works."

13. They teach that baptism takes the place of circumcision.

14. They say the Holy Spirit works directly on sinners to save.

15. They teach that Christ was in the world to reconcile his Father to us.

16. They teach that death-bed repentance will save a man.

17. They teach that those who are baptized in water may also be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

18. They teach that baptism is not essential to salvation.

19. This Church is governed by a general conference which has full power to make rules and regulations for the Church.

20. They use mechanical instruments of music in worship.

(Answer in the next issue).

(Answer to "Name the Church" in Feb. 20th issue: The Roman Catholic Church).

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PRAYER

Marvin Ed Berry — Welcome Hill
 Some general verses on prayer:
 Matt. 7:7-11; 18:19; 21:22; Luke 18:1-8; John 14:13-14; John 16:24; Phil. 4:6; I Thess. 5:17; James 5:16-18; I John 1:9; I John 5:14-15.

Elements of Prayer:

We must recognize God as our Father. Mt. 6:9 "After this manner pray ye our Father which is in heaven." We must recognize his authority over men.

Body of the Prayer:

We are to give thanks. Eph. 5:20. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of Jesus Christ."

We may request petition: Ask for forgiveness. Mat. 12:6 "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." Acts 8:22. "Repent, therefore, of this thy wickedness and pray God if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."

We may pray to be delivered from temptation. Matt. 6:13. "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."

One may pray for the rulers of the land. I Tim. 2:1-2. "I exhort therefore that first of all supplication, prayer,

intercession, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings, and for all that are in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty."

We may pray for the church. Rom. 1:8-9. "First I thank God through Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers." Paul made mention of them all in his prayers and they were the members of the church.

We are, even, to pray for our enemies. Mt. 5:44. "Love your enemies, bless them that hate you and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you."

Prayer must be through Christ. Rom. 1:8. "I thank God through Christ"

Prayer need not be long. Mt. 6:7. "But when you pray, use not vain repetitions as the heathen do, for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."

Prayer must be in Faith. James 1:6. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

We must forgive others. Matt. 6:12. "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

We must know God's will because prayer must be in harmony with His will. John 5:14. "If we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us." Study is the only way we may gain this knowledge.

Hours spent in prayer with God will give us hours of strength with our fellowman.

Luke 11:1. "Lord, teach us to pray."

GOD'S WAYS AND MAN'S WAYS (By Clovis Ragsdale)

In Isaiah 55, verses 8 and 9, we have a very important statement which every person would do well to ponder. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." It is difficult for man to remember that man's ways of reasoning are different from God's reasoning.

Nicodemus was puzzled when Christ told him in John 3:3 that a man must be born again, else he could not see the kingdom of heaven. His confusion was caused by

his reasoning (as a man) that it was a physical impossibility for a man to be born again. Our Saviour had to explain that he was speaking of a spiritual and not of a fleshly.

Many practices and doctrines of religious people today come about by men who think that because they like a certain practice God will be pleased. I Samuel 15 tells of an incident which illustrates how the reasoning of man was not the way that God would have men to do. Saul had been told to go and smite the Amalekites and all that they had. Saul and his men fell upon this heathen people and were victorious in battle, but he spared their King Agag, and the best of the sheep and oxen and all that was good to be sacrificed unto the Lord. When Samuel told him of his failure to do what God had told him to do, he blamed the people who were with him. Samuel explained that to obey is better than to sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams. I Samuel 15:22.

Today men think that one can be saved from past sins by faith alone. Others hold to the idea that prayer is necessary while some believe that sprinkling takes the place of baptism. We should remember that it doesn't matter what men think, but what God thinks and what he has said.

We are not left to wonder what God would have us to do in order to be saved. In Rom. 10:17, we learn that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Furthermore in Heb. 11:6 that without faith it is impossible to please God, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Luke 13:3, except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish. Matt. 12:32, whomsoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. Mark 16:16, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Man's ways would change these simple steps of salvation, but they are God's ways, the product of his thinking, and are to be accepted by men in a spirit of humble obedience. To do otherwise would be disobedience. II Thes. 1:8-9 tells us that those who obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power.

"A denomination is nothing in the world but some man's hobby fullgrown." —Reuel Lemmons

THE KEY THAT OPENS SALVATION TO MEN: "Repent and be baptized everyone of you unto the remission of your sins." Acts 2:38.

What plans have you made for the Lord's work in 1955?

The Mammoth Spring church expresses thanks to all who attended the fine course of lectures just held there. To those desirous to know the date of our next meeting, it will be held during the first half of October.

TEMPTING GOD

—Boyd E. Morgan

When Jesus was tempted of the devil, Satan took him into the holy city, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple. The tempter himself took a turn at quoting scripture, If thou be the Son of God cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. But Jesus said unto him. It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Mt. 4.

God had the power to turn stones into bread and to bear his Son safely, but it was not his will to do so. This would have been no greater miracle than turning water to wine or walking on water, but it is tempting God to ask God to do that which is contrary to his will.

Many people call upon God to do things, today, that are not according to that which is written. They ask God to pour out the Holy Ghost, perform miracles, bless denominational churches, and to accept their plans of salvation.

obedience and obedience is essential to salvation, then baptism is essential to salvation.

2. It states that baptism is a command of Christ, which is true. But if one can be saved without it he is saved in disobedience to Christ.

3. It says baptism is essential to confessing Christ. But if it is not essential to salvation then one can be saved without confessing Christ.

4. It says it is essential to membership in the body. But if it is not essential to salvation, then one can be saved out of the body. But read Eph. 5:23 and 2 Tim. 2:10.

5. The Manual also says that no true lover of the Lord will refuse to be baptized. But if a man can be saved without baptism, he can be saved without being a true lover of the Lord.

"If you want to be a part of the bride in the Beulah Land, on that heavenly honeymoon of a thousand years, look up a Baptist Church, and if you are saved let them bind you therein and God will recognize it in heaven. If you are not bound in the Baptist Church on earth, God will not recognize you as being a part of the Bride." (Flag of Truth, edited by James F. Dow, Aug. 1945, page 8). So this man would have us know that we must be "bound" in a Baptist Church if we ever expect to be recognized in heaven. But **How** is one bound in a Baptist Church? There is only one way on earth to be bound in a Baptist Church and that is by baptism. Therefore, if one must be bound in the Baptist Church to be saved, and one is bound through baptism, then baptism is essential to being recognized in heaven. We could add statements from Dr. D. N. Jackson, and many others, on this, but space will not permit. We are still wondering what they believe on baptism and its relation to salvation. Mark 16:16 tells us what the Lord thinks about baptism. Do you believe it?

(Taken from "The Sower", Tuckerman Church bulletin, Tuckerman, Arkansas).

FEET WASHING

W. O. Stewart — Wheeling

Many times we are asked, "Why don't you people wash feet in church services? Since you take the Lord's Supper every Sunday, and Jesus gave the Lord's Supper and feet washing in the same connection, you ought to have foot washings."

Did he give the Lord's Supper and feet washing in the same connection?

I have studied the thirteenth chapter of John and find in it that the Lord did wash the apostles' feet, but no place in that chapter did I find anything about the Lord's Supper. I ask you to read the chapter closely. I am certain the Lord did teach a wonderful lesson on humility by his example. But nowhere in the Bible do I find where the apostles followed the example in public church services or commanded me to do so. Let us notice something about where and when this was done. Read again very closely John 13:1 and notice it says, "Now before the feast of the passover. . . ." How long before? Now turn to Matt. 26:2 and Mark 14:1 and read. Read on down to the third verse of Mark 14 and find where the Saviour was at that time. Now since they were then in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, we don't want to stop there. Don't lose sight of the question. How long before?—but read on down to the twelfth verse and read about the first day of unleavened bread when they killed the passover and learn how he sent two of his disciples into the city (Jerusalem) to make ready for them. Now if you will continue reading you will find that the disciples found everything as Jesus had told them. They made ready in this large upper room that was already furnished and when the evening was come, Jesus came with his disciples and ate the passover. Now this feast was an annual feast that the Lord commanded the Jews to observe in memory of their deliverance out of Egyptian bondage and they observed it on the fourteenth day of Abib which was the first month. Now the Lord ate the passover one day early for he was the anti-type of the Paschal lamb. If everything done were to be done as church ordinances today, then we would have to eat the passover. But nowhere did Jesus command us to. Neither did he institute foot (feet) washing as a religious rite to be practiced today. Foot washing is much farther from a connection to the Lord's Supper than the passover was. If you will read the scripture noted you will see that the Lord's Supper and feet washing has no connection whatever. Nowhere did the Lord appoint a tub that ye may wash feet in His kingdom. Nowhere is the washing of feet even mentioned in the same connection as the Lord's Supper. I believe in foot washing but not as a religious rite.

The apostles that were there when the Saviour washed their feet never

practiced or mentioned it, as for a divine record is concerned. But I find the Apostle Paul in giving the qualifications of the widows that were to be taken into custody of the church gave feet washing as one requirement. In I Tim. 5:10 "Well reported of for good works, if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed ever good work." But there is nothing here that indicates washing feet in the church services. I truly think it would be a Christian act if some person came to your home cold and tired, if you would oblige them with a good warm foot bath. It would help circulation and help relieve the misery of tiredness. Think on these things.

SHORTS

It is good to be wise and wise to be good.

Some folks fall for everything and stand for nothing.

Have something to say; say it, and stop when you're done.—Tryon Edwards.

The man who foresees a depression, suffers them twice.

If you would know the value of money, go and try to borrow some.—Franklin

Many people learn the truth, but it never profits them for they never obey it. Only those who learn the truth and obey it are blessed.

The meanest, most contemptible kind of praise is that which first speaks well of a man, and then qualifies it with a "but."

NEWS

March 6 marked opening day in the church's new building at Alton. We are proud of the building. It is such as demands respect of all. The brethren now meet regularly at 10 a. m. Lord's day and extend an invitation to all to come meet with them.

The season of gospel meetings is upon us and soon many will be in progress. Please send in a note of your meeting for advertising in this paper and over the Sunday morning radio program at 9 o'clock, on K A L M.