

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

VOLUME 9 - NO. 4

MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

AUGUST - 1967

What Must I Do to Become a Christian?

HEAR— "If any man have an ear, let him hear." Rev. 13:9 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom 10:17

BELIEVE — Except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24 "But without faith it 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." Heb. 11:6

REPENT — "I tell you, nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Lk. 13:3 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Acts 17:30

CONFESS — "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10:32 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9

BE BAPTIZED — "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mk. 16:16 "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

"THEN THEY THAT GLADLY RECEIVED HIS WORD WERE BAPTIZED: AND THE SAME DAY THERE WERE ADDED UNTO THEM ABOUT THREE THOUSAND SOULS." Acts 2:41

OCTOBER 9-14, 1967
7:30 p.m.

Lectureship - Pilot Church of Christ

THEME: The Christian's Responsibility To The Local Congregation:

SUBJECTS AND SPEAKERS:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

To Grow - Bro. Wesley Hilton, Salem, Arkansas

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

To Attend Services - Brother Charles Wilson, Hardy, Arkansas

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

To Be An Example - Bro. Richard England, Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

To Give Liberally - Bro. Paul Watson, Thayer, Missouri

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

To Love One Another - Bro. L. N. Moody, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

To Be Zealous of Good Works - Bro. Carl Clem, Bradford, Arkansas

The most sublime moments lie very close to the most painful situations. We get the good things of life with the hard things, the bitter with the sweet. - Selected.

FULTON CO. GOSPEL NEWS
Mammoth Spring, Ark. 72554

Next Issue Soon !

We have been behind with the paper the past few months. As we take this paper to the press, we also take the next issue. You will receive another after this one, in about a week. We extend our thanks to all of you for your patience and continued support.

Note of Interest

The meeting conducted at Winona recently saw record crowds in attendance. The brethren from Alton did the preaching. Many have helped in the work in Winona in the past years. Through continued effort the church there is making progress.

Contributions -

CHURCHES OF CHRIST:

Wheeling	\$ 5.00
Hatfield	5.00
Agnos	5.00
Elizabeth	5.00
Viola	5.00
Salem	5.00
Ring	5.00
Delhalf	5.00

"Thoughts are often hard and green until the warm sunshine of the heart ripens them."

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MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK.

Rosa Ragsdale
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554

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**EDITORS:
CLOVIS RAGSDALE
RICHARD ENGLAND**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT
AND THE WORD
- Boyd E. Morgan**

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God." Rom. 8:14. The Holy Spirit guided inspired men to write the words of our God concerning our salvation. John records our Savior's saying, "It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. The words of God's book are the divine criterion by which a man may prove himself to be a child of God. One is not a child of God who refuses to accept the teaching of the words of the Spirit, which he caused to be written and one who likewise refuses to obey is not a child of God. It is through the word the Holy Spirit leads us to faith. Rom. 10:17. Through the word the Holy Spirit convicts the sinner of sin and leads him to salvation. I Pet. 3:22, 23. Through the word the Holy Spirit guides men to the completely furnished Christian life. II Tim. 3:16, 17.

(This is a reprint from the May 1962 issue of this paper.)

It never hurts one to do a kindness to another, even a very small one; but it often helps an awful lot.

IT IS EASY, SO EASY - -

So easy to say what another should do,

So easy to settle his cares;

So easy to tell what road to pursue,
And dispose of the burden he bears,
It is easy to bid him be brave and strong,

And to make all his shortcomings known;

But, oh, it's so hard when the care and the wrong,

And the dangers we face are our own.

The need of another it's easy to see
When our wants are all satisfied,
And bold and courageous it's easy to be

When it isn't our souls that are tried.

But, oh, it's so hard when we're stumbling along

To keep ourselves steadfast and true;

It is easy to tell someone else to be strong;

It's easier to talk than to do.

- Author unknown.

PARABLE OF THE BLOWER

Behold, the blower went forth to blow; and as he blowed, some seeds of gossip fell by the wayside, and the foul ear picked it up, and devoured the good brother it concerned.

Some fell to the phony Christian, and having not much worth, he straightway sprang out of his chair, telephoned his neighbor, and when he had hung up his friend was scorched and his love withered away.

And his brother who fell among thorns, not knowing how the tale grew up, believed it and was choked, and lo! He perisheth.

But luckily some fell to the good man and brought forth pity, so he squashed it, and he continued to gather of the blessings an hundredfold, sixtyfold, and thirtyfold. He that hath ears to hear, let him take heed how he heareth and to what his heart receiveth; and he that hath a tongue, let him control it or else keep silent. - adapted, Chamblee Admonisher.

God, Man, and Salvation

Problems of false doctrine being taught in the church do not arise overnight. But, our awareness of such may come with a sudden shock. We always have a few items of differences which plague us but do not cause any great disturbance. As these differences lie dormant and others of similar nature begin to enter and multiply, the stage is set for a gross departure from the truth. Finally, some brother who is more zealous than informed crops up with a wild notion that he has found some great truth that brethren have been overlooking all these years. As he digs through the writers of the past he imagines that he finds seeds of this "great truth" in their works. Blossoming out in all the splendor of his ignorance, he sends forth the odors of his new found doctrine.

This tragic cycle has been wit-

"THE HOLE IN THE FENCE"

A story is told of a father who took his boy on his knee and told him the story of the lost sheep; how it found a hole in the fence and crawled through; how glad it was to get away; how it skipped and played in the sunshine until it wandered so far that it could not find its way back home. And then he told him of the wolf that chased the sheep, and how, finally, the good shepherd came and rescued it and carried it back to the fold.

The little boy was greatly interested and when the story was over, he surprised his father by asking, "Did they nail up the hole in the fence?"

How often we overlook the "hole in the fence"! - Childhaven News.

The way a fellow tackles hard work shows whether his ambition is erected around a backbone or draped over a wishbone.

nessed recently in the realm of the Holy Spirit and His work. There has always been a certain amount of disagreement among even the very learned men as to exactly what is meant by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and how this is accomplished. There have been many ideas as to how the Spirit dwells in Christians, nevertheless, nobody promoted the idea, that the Holy

Spirit led, guided, strengthened, or influenced the Christian in any way other than by the instrumentality of the Bible. There was no great problem among members of the Lord's church on these matters until recently. Now we have some among the members of the church who believe that the Holy Spirit is in "direct contact" with the Christian and leading him in ways other

than, and in addition to the Bible. They introduce this "special leading" under the heading of "providence". Many who know little about providence and the answer to prayers readily accept the new doctrine being afraid that if they don't they would be denying providence. No longer are they able to stand in the face of those who have through the years advocated a modern day revelation and say "the Bible is our only guide" without a certain "mental reservation" because of their new way of thinking they are led by the Spirit in ways in addition to the Bible.

Those who believe that such direct contact exists do not understand God, man, nor the gospel.

Deity consists of three personal beings. These three are eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. They are one in essence, plan, and purpose. Yet, they are distinct beings. They have personality, position, and distinct parts

to play in the creation and salvation of man. The nature of God is expressed by the Lord in John 4:24 when He says: "God is a Spirit". He is not earthly, fleshly, nor physically bound. But this is not to say that God does not have location, nor a "body" of any sort. Many texts inform us of the fact of our resurrection and that we will have a "body" like that of Jesus. It will not be the same

kind of body we have here, but it will indeed be a body. "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (Philippians 3:20,21) "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (I John 3:2) Speaking of the body we have here and the one we will have in the hereafter Paul says: "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." (I Corinthians 15:44) That Jesus, who is Deity, has a body is quite evident. That He has location is also easily discernible from the fact that He left the portals of Glory and came to the earth. "And the Word was made flesh, and

dwelt among us." (John 1:14) The term "DWELT" literally means that he "pitched his tent" among us. He changed His location from heaven to the earth. Then, after His death, burial, and resurrection Jesus left the earth and went back to the Father in Heaven. In the first chapter of the book of Acts is an account of the apostles watching with their own eyes the ascension of the Lord back to Heaven. Just before the series of events which led to his death, Jesus told the Apostles that He was going to the Father: "Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, you would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I." (John 14:28) Jesus went away and promised to come back. The apostles were told: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11) While away from the earth, and awaiting the time of His second coming, Jesus is at the right hand of God. "Therefore be-

ing by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." (Acts 2:33) From all these passages and many others we must conclude that the Father also has personal being and location. You will notice that the Father was away in such a fashion that Jesus was to GO TO HIM. Further, He is located in such a way that it can be said that Jesus is AT HIS RIGHT HAND. Those who believe in only one person in the Godhead cannot satisfactorily explain this and still defend their position. That Jesus, the Son, and God, the Father, are separate and distinct persons can also be seen in the text of 1 Corinthians 15:27,28: "For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is expected, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." This would be absolutely inconceivable and unexplainable if there were not separate and distinct personal being to both Jesus and the Father. As we begin to think of the THIRD person of the Godhead, some would attribute to Him existence only as an "influence" exerted upon man. This is a false concept. The Holy Spirit is as much a personal being as Jesus. He is not just a work or

influence of God, but one of the Godhead that does work and influence in complete harmony with the other persons of the Godhead. He has location just as Jesus has. While Jesus was on the earth there was a sense in which the Holy Spirit was not here and that Jesus was to later send Him to guide these men into all the truth. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." (John 16:13) His work was that of revealing all the truth to these men. His influencing,

guiding, leading and directing the ways of man are dependent upon man's willingness and submission to the truth revealed. In doing this, He does not dissolve and discontinue His personal being and become a mere ethreal influence. He is still a personal being as much as God, Christ, or any other being. He has not melted into nothingness and lost His identity and position as one partaking Deity. There are three persons of Deity.

We have already said that Deity is, among other things, omnipresent. That simply means that Deity is present everywhere at the same time. This is certainly not contradictory to what has already been said. Even though God was in heaven when David wrote the Psalms, he made the statement: "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me." (Psalms 139:7-10) God is aware of all that is thought or done in all existence. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest into his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:12-13) In the sense that God is aware of all things, seeing and hearing is done and said, he is present everywhere. A man may be present in a room with a large number of other people and so situated that he can observe every movement made by any of them and still be a man with personal being and location himself. The same is true with God, except more so. Where we are limited in our sight and sound, God is unlimited. For this reason we properly say He is omnipresent. This being characteristic of Deity, it is true of all three persons

sons of the Godhead.

God is in heaven, God is everywhere, and God is in the Christian. The way God is in the Christian is not like the way He is in heaven, yet is more than the way He is everywhere. We have already proven that God is in heaven. Yet John says: "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." (I John 4:15) Knowing already that the actual person of God is in heaven, it takes very little rationality to understand that this text has to mean something other than that the personal being of God comes down from heaven and takes up abode inside the body of a human being. Christ also dwells in the Christian. Paul stated in Galatians 2:20 that Christ was dwelling in him. Yet, he knew that this was not the personal being of Jesus for he said in Philipians 1:23 that he had a desire to depart and be with Christ. Even though Christ dwells in Christians today, we know that He personally is away in such a fashion that it can be said He will come again. When we speak of God and Christ dwelling in us, very few have difficulty seeing that this is not a literal, personal indwelling. But, when we speak of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, for some reason or another, many insist that it has to mean the actual being the third person of Deity. If the Holy Spirit dwelt in people as some think and teach (really, literally, actually, and personally) He would not have a personal, local, literal being but be divided into many parts - a little in one man and a little in another. Is there an excess of His being in store someplace awaiting another convert to Christ that He might come down upon them and dwell in them? Such is not the case. The Holy Spirit is as much a personal being as is God and Christ. He is no more literally and personally dwelling in them as is God and Christ.

It is bad enough for men to misunderstand the Godhead, but is somewhat excusable in that they are Deity and we are human. It is worse for men of supposed intelligence to have such a gross

misunderstanding of themselves. Even though there are many things about the body and mind of man that we cannot (at least do not) fully understand, there are certain simple, obvious matters that can be known by the most candid observer. Man governs, and is responsible for, his own activities and walk in life. Submitting to God's will be a conscious act of man. There must be knowledge of His will, conviction in our heart that it is His will, and courage to follow it. God does not will that man do a thing that is not written in the Bible. The Bible is God's will for man. It is not a part of it, or only a basic ground work, but it is ALL OF IT. For man to submit to it he must have knowledge of it. The only way a man gains any knowledge is by the five senses. Any thought transferred from one intelligent being to another is either by use of the five senses or else it is a miracle. In that there are no miracles today, there is no transfer of thought from one intelligent being to another without the use of the five senses. This being true, God does not transfer thought to man today without the use of the five senses. He transfers thought by means of the Bible.

In that all our actions are governed by our thought, and God transfers no thought to man today except by the Word, God does not influence except by the Word. The Bible is the key of life. It tells us how to live, act, react, govern our inner thoughts, and what feelings we ought to have toward all things. The Bible is our guide, our ONLY guide. Man is made alive, and continues to be alive in Christ by the gospel which is God's power to save. "The just shall live by faith" and "We walk by faith and not by sight" were not spoken merely of the way one becomes a Christian, but also of how one remains a Christian. The only way faith that accomplishes these things comes is "by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." God speaks to us in no other way. He transfers no additional thoughts to man. All things that pertain to life and godliness are revealed in the Bible. By it we must live, for by it we will be judged.