

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID

Volume 11

Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72554

May 1970

Number 10

The Inspiration Of The Bible

By Hubert Plumlee

II. No Attempt has been made to have a uniform arrangement from a literary standpoint.

1. Most books begin with an introduction which the Bible doesn't have. It sets the plot and the story begins and you really never know the conclusion until you reach the end. However, this is certainly not true with the Bible. For instance, some chapters are just a long list of names. Nehemiah 7 has 58 verses of just names and some of them are almost impossible to pronounce. Genesis 10 has about 30 verses. Genesis 11 has 22 verses of just names. There is no other book in all of the world that would permit such an arrangement and yet, we accept it as the inspired Word of God. Try to read just a long list of names in any other book and see how much interest is created.

2. Another thing that we notice is the fact that Luke records a sermon in just three words, Acts 24:25, "reasons of righteousness, temperance, and judgment." Not much more is said of Philip as he preaches to the unich in Acts 8; however, the sermon on the mount, which can be read in about 10 minutes, covers more than 50 different subjects. Only the mind of God could give us such a book as this where one sermon is recorded with just three words and another sermon covers more than 50 different subjects in just a matter of minutes.

3. Look at the model prayer as it is set forth in Matthew 6. There is not one single thing that pertains to man and to his well-being that is not mentioned in this and yet the original contains not more than 50 words. Man's relationship to God, man's relationship to his fellow man and to himself are all taken care of in this model prayer. Now the only way that this can possibly be explained is the fact that it is the inspired Word of God.

4. Look at the writers of the Bible. Some writers contain an education comparable to a PHD while others probably not more than a 5th or 6th grade education. Give any man today any particular subject and have him write on it, one man with a PHD degree and another with a 6th grade education, and

(Continued on Page 2)

What Does It Mean To Be Lost?

By Glynn Purdy

JESUS KNOWS THE SUFFERING AWAITING THE LOST

Jesus came to this world to "save the lost", Matt. 18:11. He sent the apostles and others to the lost sheep of the House of Israel, Matt. 10:6. He was born to "save his people", Matt. 1:21. Christ did not come to condemn man for man was condemned to begin with; He came to save him, John 3:16-18.

THE WICKED AND THE LOST ARE THE SAME

Let us notice the position of the wicked. "The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord", Proverbs 15:9. Without Christ, "the whole world lieth in wickedness", I John 5:19.

THE LOST AND WICKED, ARE ALSO SINNERS

Christ came to call "sinners to repentance", Matt. 9:13. God does not even hear the prayers of the sinner, John 9:31. The law was given for sinners and Christ came to save sinners, 1 Tim. 1:9, 15. Sin came between man and God, Isa. 59:2. Those who die in their sins cannot go where Christ is, John 8:21, 24. So to be lost is to be away from God in this life, without his blessings, to serve the devil!

IF ONE IS LOST AT DEATH, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels", said Jesus to the lost as the judgment is pictured, Matt. 25:41. Notice a scene from hell, from one who was lost! "And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments ... and cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame", Luke 16:23-24. There is no escape from this place of the lost! (Verse 26).

GOD WILL TAKE VENGEANCE ON THE LOST

When Christ comes in "flaming fire" it will be to take vengeance on the lost! They will be "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power" 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

CAST INTO A LAKE OF FIRE

As John pictures the judgment, he sees the lost, "cast into the lake of fire", Rev.

(Continued on Page 2)

The Church Morals

By James D. Jarrett

From the beginning of its inception, the church has had moral problems. A quick glance at the New Testament reveals that Jesus taught before his death certain moral or ethical principles for the purpose of giving a foundation or ethical base for His church which was later to be established.

By morals, we mean right conduct, the rules of right conduct or ethical philosophy, (American College Dictionary). The rules of right conduct of the Christian are revealed in the Sacred Scriptures. The best example of the Christian ethic is further exemplified in the spiritual life of the consecrated Christian, living and abiding by scriptural principles. The real Christian ethic is demonstrated by proper attitude as well as proper action.

Some congregations have more moral problems than others. This is because the moral turpitude of a congregation is simply the reflection of the moral attitudes of the individuals which make up the congregation. In any locality, the church thrives or suffers today indirectly at least as a result of its moral reputation of the past. Individuals today must realize that their moral reputation effects not only themselves, but also the reputation of the church, and for years to come.

God is not just concerned with what we commit ourselves but He is also concerned with our outlook toward the moral actions of others. Winking at sin causes a tolerance for evil which makes its deepest in-roads, not today but later.

Our best example of the moral problem of the church is to be found in the books of first and second Corinthians. Paul's inspired teaching is forthright and plain. Moral problems are to be dealt with. The congregation that allows a member of members to commit wrong without exercising discipline brings reproach upon the church of God and sins against the erring member or members by its ineptitude in dealing with the moral problem.

Doctrinal errors usually enter in from the top, that is from the teachers, the elders, and the preachers. But moral problems usually develop from the membership. It is possible to have a clean

(Continued on Page 4)

The Fulton County Gospel News

... is a monthly publication distributed free of charge to any who care to receive it. We will be happy to add any names to the regular mailing list. If you send in a name, be SURE to include the Zip Code Number. It must be with each address according to the Postal regulations. This paper is supported by unsolicited contributions for which we are grateful. If you care to know of its financial status and expenses, that information will be furnished upon request.

EDITORS: Clovis Ragsdale
and James E. Henley.

What's Wrong With My Kids?

"What's wrong with my kids?" They're just not interested in church. They don't study the Bible. "What's wrong?" Such are the words I hear from many parents.

The answer: YOU are what is wrong with your children. Just how well do YOU attend services? How regularly do YOU read your Bible and pray? What part of YOUR life is spent in helping the church? Just what sacrifice have your children observed YOU make in behalf of the Lord's work?

Your children like ball games because YOU like ball games. They like fishing and outings because YOU like them. They sit at home and watch TV because YOU do it. They are more interested in making money than in serving God because YOU are. They like to go on vacation because YOU like to go, plan to go, work to go, talk about going, look forward to going, are willing to spend much money to go.

What's wrong with your kids? Don't be naive! Your kids are not crazy! They are not placing Jesus Christ any higher in their lives than YOU do. When you learn to have as much interest in, and place as much emphasis on serving God as you do in serving your own pleasures, your children will see in a minute. AND THEY WILL BE IMPRESSED!

—From Bulletin, Hayti, Missouri

We appreciate very much the words of encouragement some of you have written us. If there are any changes that you think would help us to have a better paper, please let us know. All ideas and suggestions will be given prayerful consideration. Keep in mind that this paper is supported by free will offering only. James E. Henley.

This and That ...

More and more people are coming to doubt the Genesis account of creation. They refer to it as a myth or a combination of symbols instead of a historical fact. Many religious groups are accepting the doubts that are being raised concerning the accuracy of the Bible account of the beginning of the earth and of man. It is easy to understand how an atheist could doubt the account of creation but most difficult how anyone who claimed to believe in Christ and any other teaching of the Bible could doubt the statements found in Genesis.

Paul stated in 2 Timothy, verse sixteen, that ALL scripture was given by the inspiration of God. I don't know how anyone could say that the book of Genesis was not a part of ALL scripture. In fact, to not accept Genesis, one might as well reject the whole of the Bible and that would leave us as rank infidels. This dethrones God and enthrones human reasoning.

Brother Clovis Ragsdale began work with the Pilot congregation recently. He will be at Pilot on the first and third Sunday mornings of each month. The second and fourth Sunday nights also. Evening services begin at 7:30. He will be at Sitka on the second and fourth Sunday mornings and also at Sitka on the first and third Sunday evenings.

A gospel preacher was asked the question, "Do you mean to tell me that I will go to Hell just because I have not been baptized?" Answer: No, one is not lost "just because" he is not baptized. He was lost already, and Jesus commanded him to be baptized to be saved. A man is not drowning "just because" he does not get into the boat or take hold of a rope. He is drowning because of where he is, in the water. Men are lost because they are in sin. They must obey the gospel to be saved. When one refuses to be baptized he is rejecting the counsel of God. Luke 7:30. "But the Pharisees and lawyers reject the council of God against themselves, being not baptized of him."

In the constant struggle against sin and Satan, the christian must remember the key to success is to live close to God's word. This will keep us close to God and to his son who is, in this present dispensation, the author of our salvation. David was able to conquer Goliath, though the contest was considered a mismatch, because he went forth in the name of the Lord. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengenth me." Paul also told the Colossians that whatever they did in word or deed to do

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Ring Church of Christ	\$5.00
Viola Church of Christ	5.00
Agnos Church of Christ	5.00
Veron Flynn	2.00
Elizabeth Church of Christ	5.00
Mabel Spergeon	1.00
Johnny Montgomery	5.00
Mrs. J.H. Laman	1.00
Edith Kerksey	5.00

THE INSPIRATION (continued)

it doesn't take you long to tell the difference in the two. Yet the Bible is the only book in the world where you have such a variety of writers with different backgrounds and educational standards and yet no man can tell the difference whether it was Paul, the highly educated man, Solomon, the wise man, or Peter, an unlearned fisherman, doing the writing.

5. Another thing we see that the Bible contains is the biography of a man before he was ever born. No other book with all the greatest philosophy, theology, and astronomy in all the world can tell about a man before he came into the world. And yet, the Bible tells where Jesus is going to be born in the city of Bethlehem. He'll be born of a virgin, no bones will ever be broken, He'll be numbered among transgressors, they'll cast lots for His garment, they'll look on Him whom they've pierced and many other things concerning this man. How do you explain the fact that all of these things were said and they came to pass exactly as were said without the Bible being the inspired with a great mind of God? There is no other explanation other than the fact that the Bible is God's word breathed to man.

If you send in names to be put on our mailing list, please print or type the names so we will not mis-spell the person's name; also we must have the zip code. I have received some names of late without the City, or State; therefore, cannot put them on the mailing list.

it in the name of the Lord. Joshua advised the children of Israel to meditate in the law day and night and not to turn from it to the left or to the right. James said for us to be doers of the word and not hearers only. These, and many other passages, teach the vital importance of living by the word.

The latter part of July will be the time of a gospel meeting at Mammoth Spring with Bros. Glenn Purdy doing the preaching. Harvey Elder of Mayfield, Kentucky, will be in a meeting at Welcome Hill the last of August. Watch for exact dates later on.

HUMILITY

So you are humble? Well, this may be measured in several ways before God. Let me remind you before you read this that you think seriously about the first point before reading further.

(1) THE HUMILITY OF SELF

No man can be humble until he has learned to be humble within. The Bible says: "Let not a man think more highly of himself than he ought to think" . . . and again, "Let us not be desirous of vain glory" Gal. 5:26; or "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" Matt. 23:12.

No man could do better than to give heed to the words of the Master which were spoken to the disciples when he was showing that humility was from service and not from without. "If I, then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; you ought to wash one another's feet, for I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord; neither is he that is sent than he that sent him" John 13:14. Jesus was teaching the disciples that humility of self was the willingness to serve in lowly places; not a desire to be exalted above the measure of one's ability, or to a place of pride. James said, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up" James 4:6. There could be no finer lesson learned in the humility of self than the lesson given in Luke 18: The difference in the publican and the Pharisee was the way each felt about self. The Pharisee knew how smart he was; he knew how good he was; he knew how right he was; he knew within himself that all that he needed was to be patted on the back, etc., etc. In reality he needed someone to set him down and point out to him that righteousness was not of one's self but in God. As Paul said "Not of works of righteousness which we have done but by His own mercy hath He saved us" Titus 3:5. The publican on the other hand was conscious of the fact that his righteousness was as filthiness before God (Isaiah). One humbled himself and was brought to a blessing, the other exalted himself and was brought to shame. Yea, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

(I Cor. 10:12)

(2) THE HUMILITY OF HEARING

This is one of the greatest tests in all the realm of mankind as to whether a man is humble before God. The reason the Pharisees hearing, heard not, was because they were not humble before God. Oh, they said, "We are ever so humble, there is none like unto

us" . . . they made long their phylacteries, and enlarged the borders of their garments . . . but notice the next verse: "And loved the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greeting in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi" Matt. 23:67. They were not desirous of what the Master was saying unto them but what He was going to say in favor of them. It is the same old story of the Pharisee in prayer, Luke 18. As a man prays, so is he in life. How many times have I heard some of our brethren pray, "Oh, Lord, help the denominational world to believe Thy word and be saved when he had aught against his brother, and heeded not the admonition of the Lord that to hate his brother was to be a murderer . . . or, how he had heard the preacher preach on giving, and swelled up and left the church pouting and angry because he thought all the preacher thought of was money. He should have been praying for himself to be brought to the position of believing the word of God that he had not yet learned to believe and obey.

How many times do we think that the other fellow is the one that needs to be taught and not us. Oh, we know enough and we can do all right for ourselves. We are like the man who was intoxicated and ran into another man with his car, got out and said to the other driver: "The trouble with me is that you are drunk." Do you see what I mean? Oh, yeah! Well, I bet I'm twice as humble as you are!

The humble man can be corrected, he can be instructed, he can be warned of a danger that may be approaching. The humbled man can be led in the paths of righteousness. David said, "Though the Lord be high, yet hath He respect unto the lowly. Ps. 138:6. Before we leave this thought, let me remind you how important it is to be humble in hearing. The story of King Saul in being rejected as king is a perfectly cut and dried thought for this. Hear Samuel: "And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." (but this does not complete the thought unless we read the next verses; hear them) "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king." The following verses tell how Saul tried to humble himself before God by saying, "I have sinned." But this was not for himself, rather because he wanted to keep his place. This is seen in the action of Saul in the latter days of his life. Let us all take

Church News

The Church of Christ in Mammoth Spring, Arkansas will conduct a V.B.S. May the 25th through the 29th. This Bible School will be in the evening, with classes beginning at 7 p.m. each evening. God's Wonderful World is the material to be used.

Brother Art Smith will begin work with the Church of Christ in Salem, Arkansas about the first of May. Brother Smith has been working with the church in Black Rock, Arkansas.

heed that we be humble in hearing the word of God. "The Spirit saith, he that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith."

(3) THE HUMILITY OF SERVICE

God never calls men to serve him who are not humble. God hates the proud, He resisteth the haughty. Pride goeth before a fall and a haughty look before destruction. Let it be said once and for all that the men whom God has placed to serve in great places He was warned to be humble. Hear Him.

Isiah 66:2 "For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."

Philippians 2:3-5 "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus . . ."

I Peter 5:3-6 "Neither as being lords over God's heritage (lording it over the charges allotted to you) but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder, Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility (gird yourselves with humility to serve one another): for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

II Cor. 3:5 "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God."

Let us learn that we are all what we are by the grace of God. Let us learn to be humble toward others, toward self, in love, in hearing, in correction, in service and in obedience to God. In so being we shall be found to be the children of God.

—By F. I. Stanley

WHAT DOES IT MEAN (continued)

20:11-15. There is just nothing good to be said in behalf of the lost! Those who obey Christ will be saved, Heb. 5:8-9. Are you among the lost? If so you need not die among them! Obey Christ now!

What Does It Mean To Be Saved?

JESUS PROMISED THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE WOULD BE SAVED

He said to his apostles, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned", Mark 16:15-16.

THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S POWER TO SAVE MAN

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek", Romans 1:16.

CHRIST IS WITH THE SAVED ALWAYS

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world", Matt. 28:19-20.

THE SAVED RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized 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" Acts 2:38.

CHRIST ADDS THOSE WHO ARE SAVED TO THE CHURCH WHICH HE ESTABLISHED

"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved", Acts 2:47. Those whose sins are forgiven are the saved. Forgiveness of sins is "in Christ", Eph. 1:7. One is baptized "into Christ", Rom. 6:3-4. To be "in Christ" is to be in his church which is one and the same, Col. 1:18. Therefore to be in Christ, is to be in the New Testament Church! The only way one can enter Christ (His church) is by being "baptized into Christ". These are the saved!

WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO "DIE IN THE LORD"

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them", Rev. 14:13.

"And the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord", 1 Thess. 4:16-17.

Christ promised to prepare a place for

SOUL TALK

"What will a man give in exchange for his soul, or what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

Suppose you were a farmer and a bountiful crop was shooting into perfection. You rejoice to see the beautiful grain waving in the wind, ripening in the sun; your hopes are high for an abundant crop. Should you see this hope blasted and the whole crop destroyed by some blight or overwhelming tempest just about the time you were planning to harvest, you would weep with horror over such a scene.

Suppose a community is cemented by friendship, inspired by patriotism, obedient to the laws, rising in dignity, in character and in the fear of God a great community whose wealth, fame and religion is known over the entire world. Again: suppose this great community becomes divided by suspicion, irritated by parties, distracted by violence, cities destroyed by the fires of hate for each other, civil discord bordering on anarchy. This too, is a most horrible scene. But let us compare; the first scene described was a loss of material possessions only, but what a loss, what distress for a poor farmer who will have to wait another year and with heavy indebtedness for even the prospect of another crop. One whole year's work lost.

The second scene involves people, living SOULS as well as material things. These precious SOULS, each one worth more than the entire world, live in human bodies which should be the dwelling places of the Spirit of God, or temples of God. These temples where the Spirit of God dwells, or should dwell, are being destroyed by drugs, nicotine, LSD, heroine, immodesty, and immorality, and are fast becoming the temples of satan. But, need we ask, what will happen to the SOULS of these human beings? What should effect our feelings so much as the SOULS of men, women and our youth in ruins? To see the bodies and SOULS of so many young people broken down by vice and made the abode of a wicked monster and to finally be swept into eternal misery, is a most horrible scene, not to mention the multitudes of mature people going down the same roadway. It's like a parent taking a child to a trustworthy friend along with its clothing and asking that they care for the child for a season. When the parent returns for the child, they are given the clothes, nice and clean but are informed that the child is gone.

Many parents seem to think that their

those who follow him, and return for such, John 14:1-6. Are you prepared for this prepared place?

neighbors, the school, and the church will see that their child is brought up right, while they work to make money to make 'whoopie'. God will not hold parents guiltless for such neglect (Eph. 6:1-4)

The world has made great strides in taking over the church in the past 25 years. Many members spend more time, money, and talent in their clubs and social life than in the work of the church. Prestige, (influence due to reputation or achievements) brings pressure upon the leadership of the church, generally. Elders, Deacons, teachers and preachers must use great care in teaching and handling of such cases as divorce, remarriage, alcoholics, addicts, and immodesty. One may ask, "What can be done about such a deplorable situation?" I do not know all the answers but one thing I do know, if your moral standards are ever brought back closer to what they should be and if our sick world is ever healed, it will be done by God Almighty and His people in the earth. A sin-sick society never did cure itself. It well may be that God will bring us back more to where we belong by bringing calamities upon a so-called 'Christian Nation' and sin-sick society.

I do not believe that we have reached a 'point of no return,' not at all, but I do believe we need to take a 'good, hard look' at New Testament Christianity and 'Preach the word,' be 'instant in season, and out of season, rebuke and reprove sin' regardless of who or where, because sin is sin in the sight of God. If we were as determined, as strong and as steadfast in our preaching and contending for the truth as the group that would deprive even a man on the moon from reading the Bible or praying, we too, might be heard by a great many more.

Guy H. Couch

CHURCH MORALS (continued)

living eldership and a clean living preacher and not have a clean church. A courageous leadership cannot act against the evil it knows nothing about.

Heavy petting, dancing, drinking, and adultery are not our only problems in the church of a moral nature. Our business relationships, our honesty, our speech and our tempers also effect in. Saddest of all, there are those in the church that are more dishonest toward God, then they are to their fellow men.

The church can get along without members with loose moral standards. Paul's admonition would be, "clean your life up or be disciplined."

Boone Rogstadale
Marmoth Springs, Arkansas