

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You" Rom. 16:16

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— EDITORIAL —

This issue marks the beginning of an enterprise to better acquaint the brethren of this county with one another and to further the work of the churches of Christ. Our aim is simple. To express ourselves spiritually, to become of 'one Mind' as commanded, to bring before the brethren ideas that each of us may have for advancing the borders of his Kingdom.

Realizing, that for many years we have been depending almost solely upon meetings, held usually once a year, to convert our neighbors to Christ: and further, realizing that we ourselves have done too little personally toward these conversions, this paper is dedicated to the services of brethren throughout this county. We hope to mold together our purposes, (never deviating from the fact that the local congregation is the highest authority on earth) for greater accomplishments in the future than we have achieved in the past.

It is possible for us to become acquainted as farmers, merchants and business men. We may understand one another's views and characteristics concerning cattle. Why cannot we become acquainted spiritually? Many brethren have had good, workable ideas that would help the church, who have never been encouraged to put them before the brethren, or may have had no opportunity. This paper is for that purpose,

This is not primarily a preacher's paper, though all preachers of the church are expected and encouraged to assist in this work.

It is for the common good of the brotherhood. We are not seeking grammatical perfection, but expression. In fact this is a work! You do not have to be a preacher to work.

The paper is sponsored by the Welcome Hill church of Christ, and is under the direction of their elders; Bro. Hubert Taylor and Bro. Lester Martin. It is supported equally by them and the churches at Pilot and Moten. It is not our intention to begin a subscription paper. We hope by means of this work to reach many who would not thus be reached. The subscription is entirely free and we want a copy to go to every home in this county that contains a christian. We further want a copy to go to every home, which in your judgement will receive it graciously, though they may not be christians. If any error in mailing is noted a post card from you will set it right. No paper will be sent outside Fulton county by the Welcome Hill church, but any congregation or individual which may desire to send these papers outside the county may do so by paying the expenses.

The paper will carry advertisements and announcement monthly of all things of common interest and for common good of the church. No ads will be carried for private profit of any person. In short the paper is for free expression. No person will receive financial gain for any services rendered to, or for, or by the paper.

Articles by all christians are solicited. Mail to the paper any

article you may write. The paper is edited by Bro. Clovis Ragsdale and Bro. Boyd Morgan, the author of this editorial.

We reserve the right to make any changes in any articles that we deem prudent and necessary. Final authority rests with the elders. Even though you may feel you are not a good writer, it may be a matter of comfort to know that your article will be corrected, if necessary. Write it anyway. send it in, we need it. If your article is not in the first issue, look for it later as our space is limited. The paper will be enlarged if possible. Articles are accepted only from members of the church who worship in this county or if you attend church outside the county and reside in the county.

At the next meeting of the congregation where you attend, call the paper to the attention of the brethren. If any have not received it urge them to drop us a card. Also appoint in the congregation a correspondent who will send us all news of the church. Announce all services and these will be made known to all brethren in the county. Also advise us of all baptism or restorations for announcements and all deaths, marriages, and moves by members of the church from one community to another.

By all means announce through this paper all meetings, singings, etc. This paper is intended for services to all brethren and for encouraging the carrying of the gospel to all sections of the county devoid of the truth. An-

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Boyd E. Morgan

WHO MUST DO PERSONAL WORK?

Lemuel Martin Welcome Hill

As soon as Andrew knew Christ, he told his brother Peter: 'He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, we have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.' John 1:41.

The Samaritan woman left her waterpot and told the men of the city that she had found Him. 'The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith unto the men, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: Is not this the Christ?"' John 4:28, 29.

Every christian has an influence and he comes in contact with others daily. Those who have 'tasted the joys of Salvation' will greatly desire and feel obligated to tell others also. Only a few can speak in the public assembly; however, every christian can lead others quietly and privately to a knowledge of the saving power of our Lord.

Correction... Next to last paragraph on back page should have read "Paul exhorts Titus," and not "God exhorts Titus." Printers error.

SCRIPTURAL REASONS FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Hubert Taylor Welcome Hill

'And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and break it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying; Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins: Matt. 26:26-28.

'This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.' 1 Cor. 11:25-26.

'And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread—" Acts 20:7.

You can see from these scriptures that Jesus himself instituted the Lord's Supper and expected it to be observed by all who love and serve him.

'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.' John 15:13, 14. It remains then: that if you are Christ's friend you will do as he directs and be at the house of worship to partake of His Supper on the first day of every week. 'If a man love me, he will keep my words' John 14:23. When you forsake the assembling it is because you lack the love for Jesus, that he directed you to have.

Some men are so busy earning bread for their children that they forget that a child does not live by bread alone.

OBLIGATIONS OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Lester Martin Welcome Hill

It is not only a high privilege but an important obligation to engage in personal work. Christ commanded it.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Matt. 28:19.

Hence the command to the Christian is "go", and the command to the sinner is "come". Matt. 11:28 30.

Christianity is a teaching religion, and as such it appeals to the understanding as well as the emotions of man. No one can come to God until he has a knowledge of how to come.

The process of salvation, of becoming a Christian is not one of accident or chance. The will of God must be known by the sinner before he can intelligently obey its provisions and accept its promises, but these things cannot be known until they are revealed by some qualified source; hence, the great need of personal workers in the Kingdom of God at all times.

The plan and will of God is that the teacher of His word, and the untaught be brought into personal contact with each other for the express purpose of teaching and being taught "The way of life" and salvation," This is true in every recorded instance of conversion in Acts of the Apostles.

A cold church, like cold butter, never spreads very well.

.. NEWS..

Welcome Hill

We, so very much, appreciate the restoration of Brother and Sister Delbert Pulley. They were restored last month and we are thankful for their sincerity and zeal.

Bro. Charlie Cavin of Sturkie preaches for us each first Sunday. Our two new class rooms are almost completed. We still lack a little work on the inside.

Bro. Lester Martin was appointed an elder January 4.

Mammoth Spring

We welcome you to all services. Preaching each Sunday and Sunday night. Mid-week service Wednesday night.

Several have been out with the flu.

Pilot

Bro. Clovis Ragsdale will preach here Sunday, January 18.

Union Hill

Bro. Whithead, the minister at Thayer, preached here Sunday afternoon Jan. 18. We have preaching two Sunday afternoons a month, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2:30.

Moten

Moten Church of Christ is beginning a Bible study on Sunday night at 7:00 o'clock. The new book for study is "Life of Christ and Acts." Everyone invited to attend.

We were glad to have services conducted by Bro. Donald Hall Dec. 27 and 28. He is with the Collinsville, Okla. Church of Christ.

The Intermediate and Senior Classes are beginning study on their new books "Old Testament Survey" by Bennie Lee Fudge.

The Primary Class has new books, "The Story of God's People", by Mrs. Irven Lee.

Bible study has been well attended with a few out with flu. We were glad to have visitors present.

Bro. and Sister Atkins' daughter, Mrs. Bybee and two grandsons, Russell and Elmer Bybee and great grand-daughter, Candy Leeburg from Walden Colo. have been worshipping with us, Dec. 21 through Dec. 28.

GOD'S PURPOSE

Luther J. Haney - Pilot

According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Eph. 3:11

1. Upon this Rock I will build my church. Matt. 16:18.

2. The church which is his body. Eph. 1:22,23.

3. He is head of the body the church. Col. 1:18.

4. There is one body. Eph. 4:4.

5. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. 1 Cor. 12:12.

Requirements to make you a member of Christ's body (church)

1. Hear;

How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard. Rom. 10:14. So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Rom. 10:17.

2. Believe;

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.

3. Repent;

Repent ye therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out. Acts 3:19.

4. Confess;

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. Matt. 10:30. 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.

5. Be Baptised:

Repent and be baptised everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Mark 16:16. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ. Gal. 3:26,27.

6. Be Faithful:

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2:10.

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.

Actions speak louder than words—but not so often.

If you are too busy to go to church, you are too busy.

The importance of looking ahead seemed hinted at when nature placed the eyes in front.

The world is better or worse for every man who has lived in it.

If the train for heaven left the church building at 10:00 next Sunday morning, would you be on it.

If God is your partner you can make your plans big.

The great thing in life is not where we are, but in what direction we are moving.

EDITORIAL

Continued from page 1

nouncements of services at congregations on the borders outside of the county will be acceptable but further services cannot be rendered.

Pray that the church may accomplish its purpose and do all you can to bring it about. Pray for the brethren who make this work possible, and pray that it may succeed. Mail all correspondence to:

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DESIRE TO KNOW GOD'S WORD

by Clovis R. Moten

The apostle Peter speaking of these who had been converted to Christianity exhorts, yes commands them to "as new born babes in Christ, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" I Peter 2:2. As the growth of a child born into this world is wholly dependent upon the amount of milk it is able to receive and digest, so also the growth of the young Christian depends upon the amount of God's word he is able to learn and put into practice. Notice that Peter states that it is first necessary to desire the word. Therefore, the first step in acquiring Bible knowledge is for the individual to create in his or her heart a burning desire to know and understand the word of God.

Surveys which have been taken by pollsters, concerning Bible questions, show an appalling lack of Bible knowledge exists in America today, and this in a country where practically every home has a Bible and where al-

most all persons are able to read. People are spending much more time seeking after pleasures and the things of this world than in meditation of God's word; because they desire and enjoy the things of the world more than things spiritual. Christians cannot pursue this course and expect to grow spiritually, and for a Christian to fail to grow is fatal. God expects his children to keep moving onward and upward, striving toward perfection. David opens the Psalms by stating "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the council of the ungodly, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night." Things in which we delight, we desire. Most people have little difficulty understanding even the smallest details concerning things in which they are most interested, but when it comes to studying and understanding the Bible, they haven't the desire to put much time in studying and searching the scripture. Instead, men have accepted the teachings of others without doing as the Bereans mentioned by Paul in Act 17:11 "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica in that they they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

In the world today there are many contradicting doctrines being taught in the pulpits, over the radio, and through the printed pages. Certainly the bible is not a book of contradictions, then these many different ideas and beliefs must be of men and not of God. Because of these many winds of doctrine, the need

of every individual to study his Bible more and more becomes apparent in order that we be not misled and fall into a condition best described in Matt. 15:14 "Let them alone, they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

Christians are told in 1 Peter 3:15 'but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.' We learn from this passage that we are ever to be able to explain why we are followers of Christ and what it means to have that blessed hope that some day we can live with God and Christ in the great beyond.

God exhorts Titus in Titus 1:9 "holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayer." We need to be familiar with God's word that we not only will know how we ought to live but to be able to lead others to Christ. Unless we are versed in the scriptures we are handicapped as we try to gain our neighbors and friends and often those who are near and dear unto us, for Christ.

Some would say that the Bible is so written that it is hard to understand, true there are many mysteries in God's word that men have been unable to solve; but the things which are essential to salvation are simple and plain and leaves us with no excuse for not understanding what God would have us do. By earnest study and by rightly dividing the word men are able to grow in the knowledge of the word which enables them to reap a bountiful harvest for the Lord.