

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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"The Churches of Christ Salute You" Rom. 16:16
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Mammoth Spring, Ark.
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THE ALL SEEING EYE!!

Bobby D. Hilburn.. Mammoth Spring

One of the greatest weaknesses of the world today is the lack of consciousness that there is an ALL-SEEING EYE watching over us. It doesn't matter where we go, or what we do or say, the eyes of the almighty GOD are beholding our every move. [Job. 34:21]. It is an impossibility to hide from God. (Prov. 15:3) After Adam and Eve had sinned in the Garden of Eden, they tried to hid from God. When he came in to the gargen, he saw that they were trying to hide themselves and asked Adam the question, "Where art thou?" He already knew where they were, but he wanted Adam to take a spiritual inventory of himself and really see just what he was trying to do. Elijah fled to the caves trying to hide from God and Jonah tried to hide in the hold of the ship. None of these attempts succeeded because there is nothing that is not manifest in the eyes of God. (Heb. 4:13).

When realizing God's watchfulness over us, we will undergo a drastic change. All gossip will stop; all profanity will cease to be heard; and instead of doing this, we will be endeavoring to spread the gospel of Christ.

When realizing God's watchfulness over us, we will remain faithful. The husband will remain faithful to his wife, even though they might be separated for several months at a time. The wife will remain faithful to her husband even though oceans might separate them. Our children will

remain faithful to the teachings that they have received in the home. Parents will see the need for the correct environment and companions for their children. The Christian will remain faithful to the teachings of God. All wars will cease, and man will love his fellow man.

When realizing God's watchfulness over us, our businesses will flourish. The business man will take God as his co-partner, and all short-changing, thumb-weighting, and unfriendly attitudes toward his customer will stop. His books will be opened to anyone who wishes to check his profits. His love for God will come before any undue profits and his dealings with others will be fair, and in accordance with God's will.

When realizing God's watchfulness over us, we will choose clean recreation. We will not go to places where we would be afraid to mention the name of Christ, or to glorify God. Neither would we go to places where the temptations might lead us astray. We would not go to places where Christ wouldn't go if he were here upon the earth. We would follow the examples that Christ set while here and, in turn, set good examples for others to follow.

When realizing that God is watching us, we will strive to worship him acceptably. Since we are to worship him in TRUTH and in SPIRIT, we will practice only the things that he tells us to do in worship unto him. We will work diligently to help someone to save his soul, and

serve GOD in all meekness love, and humility.

This world will be a greater place in which to prepare for heaven if only humanity will realize that we have an all supreme God, and that he is with us always if we will but serve him unceasingly.

THE UNGODLY MAN

(Clavis Regsdale.. Moten

An ungodly man is one who is not concerned about religion and the salvation of his own or anyone else's soul. He may be a man of excellent reputation; one who provides well for his family; is honest; is upright in all his business dealings, but who has never met the requirements that God demands if one is to be known as a Godly man.

The word sinner is often used to mean one who is a drunkard, a fornicator, a dishonest man, and one who is a transgressor, not only of God's law but of moral law as well. It is true that all men who have never obeyed the first principles of the gospel are sinners. They are in a lost condition, even though they are good men morally. God has nowhere promised salvation upon the basis of moral goodness alone to anyone. On the other hand, God has given his blessings to vile persons because they were willing to change their immoral ways and obey him spiritually. Rahab the harlot and Saul of Tarsus are examples of persons who were justified in the sight of God because they had sufficient faith to obey God when they were told what to do.

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Fulton County Gospel News
Mammoth Spring, Ark.

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Boyd E. Morgan

EDITORIAL

Advantage is taken of this article at this time to write about the paper itself. Realizing that many of the congregations in the county are small this paper has the purpose of acting as an instrument to keep all acquainted with all activities over the county and to encourage greater cooperation among us. Primarily it has been hoped that the members of the county would furnish articles, news items, and advertisements of services. All this has been done without charge to any and will be so continued. Our great regret is that articles do not come in. Brethren do not write them, probably because they feel incapable or embarrassed. We are not striving to display either talent, education, or extraordinary ability. The more humble the scribe the more appreciated is his work. Eleven hundred copies are being regularly printed and distributed free of charge. The paper is doing a great work and is appreciated. But during the month not one single article, not one single news item, not one single ad was submitted by one single member of Fulton county. The Editors have provided the material of necessity by either writing themselves, or using material submit-

ted earlier. Thanks to Bro. Farley of Jonesboro for his unceasing interest and timely articles. We are wondering if folks of this county really understand what this means. All recognize the value, all speak appreciatively, all want it continued. However, when a work is dependent on too few it can die. This paper is destined to be permanent, but should Bro. Clovis Ragsdale move should I leave Mammoth Spring, and the preacher who succeeded me not have the inclination to edit this paper, the work would end then and there. Why not write that article you have thought about writing? We have promised to edit it. Why not write it now and send it in with a note of encouragement to us.

Boyd E. Morgan

JUST SUPPOSE

Ira G. Woodward - Mam. Sng.

The Lord should begin to make people as sick as they claim to be on Sunday.

Suppose the Lord should take away the child whom the parents use as an excuse from staying away from church.

Suppose the Lord should make people as poor as their contributions.

Suppose the Lord should strike dead all who lie about giving as prospered as he did Ananias and Sapphira.

Suppose the Lord should have everyone stoned for covetousness as he did Achan.

Suppose the Lord let some people see their future and see how their example and lax control has effected their children-

Suppose that we all who read this resolve to do more in the future than we have in the past.

Following is a list of contributions to the Viola building fund;

Seminole, Okla. Church of Christ	\$500.00
Wewoka, Okla. Church of Christ	\$500.00
W. E. Harber: Shawnee, Okla.	250.00
Mrs. S. B. Hammond; Seminole Okla.	10.00
Dr. W. E. Gri-so; Seminole, Okla.	100.00
Mammoth Spring Church of Christ	240.00
Ira Atkins; Mam. Spg.	10.00
Salem Church of Christ	250.00
Dr. and Mrs. J. F. Guenther; Salem, Ark.	25.00
Moten Church of Christ	100.00
Morrison " " "	250.00
Union Hill " " "	50.00
Viola " " "	83.60

During and following our Viola meeting Sturkie, Hatfield and Wheeling contributed \$25.00 each for expenses Mammoth Spring contributed \$100.00 of this amount \$125 was so used and the \$50 balance placed in the building fund. 50.00

Total building fund to date	\$2418.60
Expenses- cost of lot	500.00
Balance on hand	\$1918.60

Besides the above Mammoth Spring Church of Christ is pledged to give another \$250.00 and various other congregation have stated they will help. The Oklahoma brethren have pledged themselves to raise their amount to a minimum of \$2000, provided the Fulton county and surrounding churches will raise \$3000.00. This is a challenge. We have high hope of a greater missionary campaign for this section of

the county, that has been neglected so long. We urge brethren to give generously. This work will help us all.

Be sure your world is not one in which things happen, but one in which things are done.

God employs no hirelings. His work is done by his sons

Teach them the Truth

"I'm not going to cram religion down the throats of my children. I'm going to wait until they are old enough to choose for themselves" Parents sometimes take this dangerous attitude toward their own children.

Suppose you did your garden this way. Imagine this sort of reasoning: "I don't believe I'll plant a garden this spring; I will just wait and see if the garden spot wants to take strawberries or weeds". You know the weeds will take it."

Those good ideas you have. Ever have an idea of using them.

Wanted: Some droppers for the waiters. The waiters have been waiting for some one to come along and drop something in their laps. We have plenty of waiters but are out of droppers. They are scarce.

Do you suppose any waiters would like to take a course in dropping to relieve the shortage?

Which are you? A waiter or a dropper.

CHURCH HISTORY

by

Clovis Ragsdale

In previous articles we have learned how the church was established, its order of worship, how it spread into all the then

known world. Today we want to discuss the apostasy or the departing from the pattern of worship as laid down by the divinely guided apostles. Paul warns of this in I Tim. 4:1. One of the first departures was in the governing of the church. Each congregation in the early church had its own elders which were sometimes called bishops and pastors. By the third century the idea of a presiding elder had begun to become common among congregations. Soon a presiding bishop or elder was set up to rule over different groups of bishops. This practice grew until by the year 200 A. D. It culminated in the establishment of the first pope, who was to rule over all the bishops of the earth. By this time another departing had become popular, which was the abandonment of observing the Lord's Supper on the first day of every week. Instead the supper was observed periodically once every three months and sometimes just twice a year. Infant baptism was introduced after the year 125 A. D. and gradually became more and more popular. The instrument of music in christian worship was introduced gradually into worship during the period of time from 200 to 600 A. D. There was much opposition to the use of mechanical instruments however and it was many centuries before it became widely used. By the year 500 A. D. the Catholic church had come into existence. The departure from the new testament pattern of worship had become complete. Soon a period of time known as the "dark ages" set in. The writings of the apostles which we call the new testament was taken from the people and men called priests were the only per-

sons permitted to have access to the scripture. Thus the light of the gospel was taken from the peoples of the earth. The popes of Rome grew corrupt, so corrupt in fact that it is almost impossible for one to imagine how men in the name of religion could become so vile and wicked. They purchased the office of the pope by bribery and deceit. They secured control of the governments and kings of the earth and levied taxes upon the people and thus became immensely wealthy. Pop. Boniface VII murdered his predecessor and maintained himself on the blood stained papal throne by a lavish distribution of stolen money. Benedict IX was made pope as a boy of twelve years of age thru a money bargain with a powerful family that ruled Rome. He was one of the wickedest of all the popes, committing murder and adulteries in broad daylight, robbed pilgrims on the graves of martyrs, was finally driven out of Rome by the people. There were many who raised their voices in opposition to the ungodly teachings and practices of Catholicism but they were put to death as heretics. Because the common people did not have access to the word of God the popes were able through the priests to keep the world in ignorance of God's word. All the information one could get concerning religion was to ask the priests. Catholicism has attempted to continue this practice even until this day and has by this teaching been able to blind the hearts of millions down through the ages.

In our next issue we shall study how the dark ages were brought to an end and now the glorious light of God's word once more began to shine in the hearts and lives of men.

The Ungodly Man -- continued
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There are many good people today who expect to gain heaven and escape hell because they are living a good clean moral life, but who have never been baptized into the kingdom of God's dear son. These people must be classed as ungodly because they have never complied with what God has told men to do to become righteous in His sight.

In I Peter 4:17 and 18 we are told "that judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the sinner and the ungodly appear."

The idea that a man can be saved by living a good moral life originated in the minds of men and will bring destruction to all who depend upon their goodness alone for salvation. In Psalms 1:6 we learn that God knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

PRAYER

Marion Farley Jonesboro, Ark.

After Moses, the great lawgiver to the children of Israel, had gone down into Egypt and led the children of God safely across the Red Sea on the dry ground provided by the miracle of God and led them into the wilderness journeys, they came to a need for water. God told Moses to speak to a certain rock to bring forth water to the multitudes. He did and did more, he also struck the rock, being grieved by the rebellious nature of the children, and in disobeying was denied the privilege and honor of leading them into the land

that "flowed with milk and honey." Moses was very desirous of seeing this great land and besought the Lord fervently that the Lord repent and let him go in. We hear him as he says, "I pray thee, let me go over and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain and Lebanon". Hear his record again as he says, "But the Lord was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me" Deut. 3:25, 26. A very short prayer indeed, but expressing a very sincere desire of his great heart, that he had labored so untiringly for but could not possess. God does not hear prayers contrary to his will. All prayers must be in accordance to the will of God to be heard. God had stated his will in regard to Moses disobedience and was not to be moved. Moses bowed in subjection to his will and though he never set foot in Canaan was rewarded of God and present at the transfiguration of our Saviour.

But, then in I Sam. 1:11 we have a short prayer by a woman named Hannah for a son. "O, Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and forget not thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life." Her request was granted, she did exactly as she had promised, the child was named Samuel and became one of the greatest of the prophets of God.

When Isaiah the prophet, during an illness of the good King Hezekiah, informed the King to set his house in order, "For thou shalt die, and not live", the good King prayed to Jehovah in tears thus, "I beseech thee, O Lord, remember how I have walked be-

fore thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight" and the Lord sent the prophet back to tell him, "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears, behold I will heal thee, and I will add unto thy days fifteen years."

The Publicans prayer in Luke 18:13 contained only seven words, "God be merciful to me a sinner" and yet it is said he went down to his house justified rather than the Pharisees who showed anything but humbleness in his prayer.

A long prayer is not always necessary, but one thing that is required is an humble heart. If we have not humbled ourselves and do not feel our unworthiness and dependence on the heavenly Father and bow in subjection to his will, our prayers may never be heard. The examples given ought to encourage us to pray. To begin now if we have not and to pray more if we have. I am afraid many christians have never learned the power in prayer and make this command one of the most neglected of them all. The apostle Paul, being inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote to the church at Thessalonica giving them many admonitions and commands having to do with living the christian life. Among them "Pray without ceasing." I Thess. 5:17.

More to follow.

He who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do anything.

We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing while others judge us by what we have already done.

- Longfellow