

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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"More Blessed To Give Than To Receive"

By Glynn Purst

These words were spoken by the Apostle Paul to the elders of the church of Ephesus, who by request had met him at Miletus. Paul gave Jesus credit for speaking these words and ask the elders to "remember" them. Therefore they must be important!

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN THIS?

Most people are honest and sincere and desire good for their fellow man. But do we take the time to help this desire to come to pass? Too many of us, without desiring to do so, do not take the time and make the investment to "give" more than we "receive". We might start with God! Are we receiving more from Him than we are giving? Out of your 168 hours per week, which you "receive" from God, how much do you "give back to him"? The average faithful (?) member of the church can spare about 4 hours per week for God's cause and "keeps" 164 for himself! Is it really more "blessed to give than to receive"? Are you sure you know?

TALENT

God has given each of us some talent, some more than others, but all some! How much of this have you given back to God? You can obey God, do you? You can live for God, do you? You can teach His word, do you? You can worship him at all the services of the church, do you? The fact that you are a "one talent" man, is no excuse for not using the one talent? Too many of us pride ourselves on "knowing" the will of the Lord, but are unwilling to do what we know to do! This is sinful, James 4:17. The one who "hears" the word of the Lord and "does it not" is "deceiving" himself, is that you? (James 1:22-27). In this same passage, religion is something that one "does", now just "knows".

OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER

James teaches in James 2, that just to wish our brother well will do him no good, unless the wish is backed with deeds! The season of the year will soon be upon us when the spirit of giving is in the hearts of most people, but why just one time each year? Many of the churches will have two, or three services, to take care of those who love God at this season of the year and wish to give him

Christian Joy

By James D. Jarrett
1436 Sixth Street
West Plains, Missouri

It is to be doubted that one is practicing Christian religion unless he is enjoying his religion. Yet all too often, in the opinion of this writer, many seem not to be really enjoying the living of Christianity.

There is nothing wrong in bearing burdens, for bearing burdens is a command of our Lord, but there is something wrong with people who would make a burden out of that which should be a real joyful service to a consecrated Christian believer.

Christian worship was not designed by our maker to be a duty performed in obedience to a command. It is rather a joyous opportunity to remember the sacrifice of Christ, to give as we have been prospered to the God who gave us all spiritual and material blessings, to lift up our voices and stir up our hearts in the lofty praise of song, to pray with thanksgiving to our God and to listen with awe and wonder to the matchless wisdom of God's holy word.

We wonder at the possible enjoyment of their religion by those that skip the Bible study week after week, who often come in late for worship and who seemingly with alacrity rush out hardly after the communion is over, skipping the rest of the worship. We doubt if our general observation is wrong, that most usually those that attend the worship most, who are punctual and ready to begin, and who linger until after the completion of the service generally enjoy it most.

We wonder how many persons there are who are members of the Church of Christ, but really do not enjoy being so. Not that they did not burn with spiritual fervor during their conversion and their obedience to the gospel, but their thrill has long since burned out. Those who remember the joy of primary obedience

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an hour of their time to tell him of their great love! But what about the rest of the year? God is first, or not at all! Those in need, who do we think feeds and cloths them the rest of the year? If it is "more blessed to give" to God and man one time each year, it is also good the rest of the year too! What about you?

A Review Of The Restoration Movement

By Clovis Ragsdale

In the previous article we discussed the reason for the Restoration movement. It can be summed up in a few words. To restore the original plan of the church as it existed in New Testament days. It was pointed out that error and false doctrines was introduced by man which had corrupted the plan of worship given by Christ and the apostles. There was a need for the true plan of worship to be restored in modern day.

The Restoration movement stressed the need for unity among God's people. In the present day theologians are in agreement on the need for unity. Much is being said and some action is being taken to try to bring about unity in the Christian world. The Church of Christ, having pleaded for unity for so long, and finally seeing most others agreeing with us, would like to be heard on the basis of how unity can be achieved.

Unity, in order to be pleasing to God and to be accepted by all men, must be brought about by acceptance of the Bible alone as the source of authority. Division was brought about by men adding or subtracting from the scriptures. Men cannot hold conferences, synods, or any other conclaves, and legislate doctrine in religion. This usurps the authority of divinely inspired scripture. Man may draw up plans and bylaws and have union but this would be hypocrisy. There is no place for hypocrisy among God's people.

What are the chances of a united Christendom? There are some hopeful signs to be noted. The recognition that unity is God's will and is taught in the Bible is being admitted by more and more. Some feeble efforts are being made to achieve unity. There seems to be a wave of ungodliness settling over the world. This will lessen the number of Christians and probably bring on extreme persecution. This will create a climate where unity will be made more possible. Calamity which could destroy the present civilization could be a factor. We doubt if unity can be achieved in the present promiscuous and prosperous society that we live in at the present time.

The Church of Christ will continue to teach the need for unity of all Christians

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The Missing Day In Time

The Fulton County Gospel News

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EDITORS: Clovis Ragsdale
and James E. Henley.

"The Inspiration Of The Bible"

By Hubert Plumlee

The Bible itself contains proof of its inspiration. We are dealing here primarily from a practical standpoint and not a technical standpoint. In Deuteronomy 4:32, God says, "Try me, there is none other like me." The ability of man to conceive the idea of God is an unique proof of His being. Man with all of his knowledge and technical know-how could have never conceived the idea of an all-wise and all-powerful God to set things in order as they have been. When trying to prove the Bible from a technical standpoint, it becomes first difficult for us to explain and, secondly, difficult for most people to comprehend. So we are dealing in this series of lessons with a practical proof of the inspiration of the Bible.

I. THE BIBLE GIVES MAN A RELIGION THAT CANNOT BE COUNTERFEITED.

1. We see man's FIRST SALVATION as is set forth in Genesis 6. Man was exceedingly wicked and was in need of salvation. God instructed Noah to build an ark. Noah followed God's instruction in building of that ark. In time, Noah, his three sons, and their wives entered into the ark and God brought a flood on the earth. Here is man's first salvation that cannot be counterfeited. It cannot be because the circumstances are not available. Everything that was necessary for Noah's salvation cannot be done today because God, first, will never bring another flood upon the earth and, secondly, an ark would not save all that could be redeemed. Therefore, here is a religion that cannot be counterfeited.

2. Next we look at JUDIASM. Judiasm as the Israelites were freed from Egyptian

"Did you know that the space program is busy proving that what has been called "myth" in the Bible is true? Mr. Harold Hill, president of the Curtis Engine Company in Baltimore, Md., and a consultant in the space program, relates the following development:

"I think one of the most amazing things that God has for us today happened to our astronauts and space scientists at Green Belt, Md. They were checking the position of the sun, moon, and planets out in space, where they would be 100 years and 1,000 years from now. We have to know this so we don't send a satellite up and have it bump into something later on in its orbits. We have to lay out the orbit in terms of the life of the satellite, and where the planets will be so the whole thing will not bog down!

They ran the computer measurement back and forth over the centuries and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up red signal, which meant that there was something wrong either with the info fed into it or with the results as compared to the standards. They called in the service department to check it out and they said, "It's perfect." The IBM head of operations said, "What's wrong?" "Well we have found there is a day missing in space in elapsed time." They scratched their heads and tore their hair. There was no answer!

bondage happened only one time. It is an unique thing in that how they got into bondage to begin with. Brothers selling their own brother into bondage and yet a great famine forcing all the families to come together. We notice again that man cannot counterfeit their type of exodus from Egypt. In fact, their own capturers wanted them to be set free. So it is that Judiasm is a type of salvation or religion that cannot be counterfeited. And another unique thing about the Jews is the fact that the very thing that gave them strength and power is the thing that they wanted to give up and, of course, that is God.

3. Next we see CHRISTIANITY. Here is a religion that cannot be counterfeited. It cannot be because all of Christianity stems around the virgin birth of Christ. It happened only one time and will never happen again. Jesus lived a life that was without sin, a perfect sacrifice which can never happen again. Our life and our salvation is centered around the death, the burial, and the resurrection. All of these give meaning and purpose to life. Our salvation, the church, the Lord's supper, all are related to the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus.

One religious fellow on the team said, "You know, one time I was in Sunday School and they talked about the sun standing still." They didn't believe him, but they didn't have any other answer so they said, "Show us." So he got a Bible and went back to the book of Joshua where they found a pretty ridiculous statement for anybody who has 'common sense.' There they found the Lord saying to Joshua, "Fear them not, I have delivered them into thy hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee." Joshua was concerned because he was surrounded by the enemy and if darkness fell they would overpower them.

So Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still! That's right! "The sun stood still and the moon stayed . . . and hastened not to go down about a whole day!"

The space men said, "There is the missing day!" Well, they checked the computers going back into the time it was written and found it was close but not close enough! The elapsed time that was missing back in Joshua's day was 23 hours and 20 minutes . . . not a whole day. They read the Bible and there it said, "about (approximately) a day." JOSHUA 10:12-13

These little words in the Bible are important. But they were still in trouble because if you cannot account for 40 minutes you will be in trouble 1,000 years from now. Forty minutes had to be found because it can be multiplied many times over in orbits.

Well, this religious fellow also remembered somewhere in the Bible where it said the sun went backwards. The space men told him he was out of his mind. But they got out the Book, and read these words in II Kings, chapter 20, Hezekiah, on his death-bed, was visited by the prophet Isaiah who told him that he was not going to die. Hezekiah did not believe him and asked for a sign as proof.

Isaiah said, "do you want the sun to go ahead ten degrees?" Hezekiah said, "It's nothing for the sun to go ahead ten degrees, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees." Isaiah spoke to the Lord and the Lord brought the shadow ten degrees backward! II KINGS 20:10-11.

Ten degrees is exactly 40 minutes! Twenty-three hours and 20 minutes in Joshua, plus 40 minutes in II Kings, make the missing 24 hours the space travelers had to log in the logbook as being the missing day in the universe! Isn't that amazing! Our God is rubbing their noses in His TRUTH! That's right!

—From the Central Herald

Church News

The Church of Christ in Mammoth Spring, Arkansas has just concluded a gospel meeting with brother Bill Richardson of Mountain Home, Arkansas doing the preaching. Five were baptized and attendance was good despite the seven inches of snow that fell on the first day of the meeting. Brother Richardson did an outstanding job of preaching the gospel in love, and purity.

We have had three to be baptized since the meeting.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Viola Church of Christ	\$5.00
Agnos Church of Christ	5.00
Ring Church of Christ	5.00
Elizabeth Church of Christ	5.00
Bert Loudermilk	1.00
Sturkie Church of Christ	5.00
Cecil Smith	1.00
Tom Fox	1.00
Eva Downey	3.00
Vira Evans	1.00
Wheeling Church of Christ	5.00
Mable Spurgeon	1.00
W. W. Horton	7.00
Gary Brand	1.00
Ira Atkins	5.00

Christian Joy (cont.)

should wonder concerning the reason, if they find that the living of their religion does not present similar joys.

It is well to note that one does not have to be entertained in order to enjoy religion. That is the reason why a soul-stirring sermon lifts up some of our people to great height. They appreciate truth for truth's sake. They would rather sing, "Oh How I Love Jesus" on Sunday morning than listen to Mozart or a popular singer on Saturday night. They would rather put their money in the collection plate than spent it for an admission ticket. They would rather talk to their God than engage in animated conversation. They would rather listen to plain preaching than hear the president of our nation. They would rather commune with their Lord on every Lord's day than anything else in the world. They would rather campaign for Christ than for either the democrat or republican party. They would rather live in heaven than any other place in the universe.

They are truly converted to Christ and committed to the work of the Church. Their memory of their conversion is truly precious and the joy of their commitment is soul-striking.

Christ In Prophecy

"And in thy seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice", said God to Abraham (Gen. 22:18)

"Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel", (Isaiah 7:14) "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: For he shall save his people from their sins", (Matt. 1:21). (Matt. 1:23)

"For unto us a son is given: And the Government shall be upon His shoulder: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace", (Isa. 9:6)

"But thou, Bethlehem, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from old", (Micah 5:2)

"Thus saith the Lord; a voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping: Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for children, because they were not," (Jer. 31:15)

"When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt", (Hosea 11:1)

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord hath appointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound", (Isa. 61:1)

"And I said unto them, if ye think good give me my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, cast it unto the potter; a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord," (Zech. 11:12-13)

"They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture" (Psalms 22:18).

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?", (Ps. 22:1-2)

"And he made his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death", (Isa. 53:9)

Fulfillment of Prophecy

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to seeds, as of many? but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ", (Gal. 3:16)

"And she (Mary) brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn", (Luke 2:7)

"For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord", (Luke 2:11)

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold there came wise men from Jerusalem", (Mat. 2:1) (Matt. 2:1)

"In Rama was a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted, because they are not", (Matt. 2:18)

"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, out of Egypt have I called my son", (Matt. 2:15)

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath appointed to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised", (Luke 4:18-19)

"Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the Prophet, saying, and they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the Children of Israel did value; and gave it to them for a potter's field as the Lord appointed me", (Matt. 27:9-10)

"And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet", (Matt. 27:35)

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?", (Matt. 27:46)

"And laid it in his own new tomb (Joseph, a rich man did this to the Lord's body) which he had hewn in the rock", (Matt. 27:60)

Some Things Mothers Ought To Say

The Mothers of our land have a powerful voice. They marched and obtained the right to vote. They marched and closed up the saloons. I think it high time that Mothers lifted up their voices of protest again.

First, mothers ought to say something about today's fashions in clothes. They need to tell designers that their clothes are ugly, uncomfortable, and immodest. Why should a godly woman allow herself to be forced into wearing something she knows isn't right? Why should she allow such thing to be forced on her children?

We need more respect and dignity for the human body. Make no mistake about it—the way the body is clothed (or unclothed) betrays a basic concept of life itself.

Mothers need to make their sons clean up, pull off their smelly rags, cut their stringy hair, and become men again instead of symbols of heterosexuality. No wonder there is so much perversion in today's world. And mothers can do something about it if they will!

Second, our mothers ought to say something about today's music. It's not just a fad; it is a mania. The beat is sensual and the lyrics are plain dirty. Singing and music in other forms is a vital part of man's environment. It plays a basic role in the formation of his personality. One great man once said, "Let me write a nation's music and I care not who writes her laws." When the tempo is stimulating and suggestive, they leave nothing even to the imagination, then we are sowing the wind and must reap the whirl-wind.

Mother, put some of those records on and listen carefully to what they say. Is that what you want fed to that daughter or son of yours? Throw those things in the garbage and lay down the law. Most of the money for this moral filth is supplied by mother and daddy. Cut out the money for it and such people will soon be forced out of business.

Mothers need to write some indignant letters, apply some pressure, make some phone calls. Such things at the right source and in sufficient volume could force a crack-down on this business. Mother, it is up to you!

Third, mothers need to say something about the trend in the church today. It must start by mothers getting back to the feet of Jesus. In Luke 10 we have the story of Mary choosing the good part while Martha was more interested in other things. The "Marthas" are filling the church today. And with them comes "the new morality." There is too little spirituality among many of today's mothers in the church. They are too interested in money and material things.

As a result many have no time for their children. They are often slaves of the fashion world and thus are a means of encouraging the things we have condemned.

When mothers get back to the feet of Jesus, study the word, pray, keep the home and rear the children, then things will be different. But not until then. The parties and plays and "socials" that have become "THE thing" in the church today are the product of the "Marthas."

Fourth, mothers ought to say something about the lives of their children that will bring dignity and meaning. Names with real meaning like those found in God's Word are a thing of the past. Far too many children are named for some star of stage or screen. How could a godly woman idolize a prostitute? How could a Christian woman name her baby after some "spectacular success" that has just discarded her fifth husband? Mother, throw away that cheap magazine, turn off that immoral TV program and get back to the Word of God. Teach that boy and girl about God's image which they bear, about the worth, dignity, and responsibility of life, about their eternal destiny.

Make no mistake about it. Mothers have a powerful voice. They are speaking up and they are being heard — either for good or evil. Mother, speak up for righteousness. This article was written by Bro. Don McWhorter and we saw the reprint in COMMENT, October, 1969. It refers to a vital subject and is worthy of consideration. Be it understood that the mother as a woman is to act in the sphere of activities governed always by the Word of God.

Restoration Movement (cont.)

because it is plainly taught in the Bible. Christ prayed for it as is recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John and by Paul in the first chapter of First Corinthians and other places in the scriptures. We believe that to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where it is silent is the only formula that can bring true unity to all Christians. The Restoration movement is dedicated to this end. To restore the church as it was in the days of the Apostles is a way that is right and cannot be wrong because they were guided from above and would not be prone to error.

The Church of Christ differs from all other religious groups in the world today because we have maintained the simplicity of worship that is taught in the Bible.

This and That ...

The church is growing very rapidly in the nation of India. In the last six years about 800 congregations have been established. About 55,000 people have been baptized. People are literally begging for someone to preach the gospel to them. The preachers who are over there have more invitations to come and preach in different localities than they are able to meet. Brother J.C. Bailey discovered this fertile field a few years ago. Several natives have been trained to preach and the work is moving ahead. Native preachers can live on \$25 per month. A first class church building can be built for about \$500. In comparison with the United States and Europe, India is very poor. It is most difficult to get people in the privileged nations to listen to the gospel. Could it be that people who are not as prosperous are more receptive to the gospel?

The Freed-Hardeman lectureship, held in February, discussed the threat of liberalism to the church. It seems that in some parts of the country that some brethren, mostly among the highly educated, are willing to compromise many truths of the Bible for modernistic ideas. The sectarian world has long preached the social gospel and some in our own midst would copy this trend though it has failed miserably. Much of the problems of our day are the results of the younger generation losing faith in religion because they have seen through the hypocrisy of the religious world.

Small rural congregations are finding it difficult to have preaching even once a month due to the shortage of speakers. There is an urgent need for more part time preachers in this area.

Brother Boyd Morgan will be in a meeting at Mtn. Grove, Mo. beginning April 12 and continuing through April 19.

Make your plans to be at Pilot on the third Sunday in May. Worship services at the morning hour followed by dinner on the ground and singing in the afternoon. Remember the date, May 17.

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.

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