

## FULTON COUNTY

# GOSPEL NEWS

BOX 184 MAMMOTH SPRING, ARKANSAS 72554

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### Danger

The Old Testament reveals that Israel never remained faithful to Jehovah for more than a generation or two. New Testament writers, knowing of man's inclination to depart from truth, warned repeatedly against the possibility of apostasy. "Give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest haply we drift away from them" was the watchword given by inspiration to first century disciples. Twentieth century disciples must also give earnest heed to the things that are written, lest we drift away from the truth. Eternal vigilance is not only the price of liberty, it is also the price of being right in the sight of God.

The social gospel seems to have great appeal to those who are only slightly acquainted with the gospel of Jesus. Social gospelers, preaching a soup and soap salvation, are at work attempting to draw away the disciples. This teaching was introduced on this continent by Doctor Harry F. Ward, a Methodist Bishop. His book, *Social Evangelism*, published in 1915, is the manual for all who march under the banner of "meats for the belly, and the belly for meats."

The system suggested by Doctor Ward, and accepted by many denominational

groups, is wrong on at least two counts. First, Doctor Ward denies the existence of the individual in our complex society, and thereby denies the validity of personal evangelism; he personifies the community and undertakes to save the community rather than the individual. Second, Doctor Ward would use the energies and power of religion for purposes that are not religious; he advocates that the church become involved in labor disputes, slum clearance, redistribution of the wealth, and numerous other political matters. The social gospel was accepted "whole-hog" by sectarian bodies, and ever since those bodies have been on the decline. In fact, the denominational groups that accepted the social gospel are dead spiritually—and the stench reaches up to heaven.

Behold, and look, and wonder marvelously; for a strange thing has come to pass in the land, which you will not believe though it be told you. Brethren today are advocating for the church the selfsame social gospel that is killing denominationalism! Lo, from among the disciples comes forth one, saying, "That era, which we call the Social Gospel period, was in some ways one of the finest moments in American church history." (Mission, May 1968) Furthermore, it is ac-

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## *Timothy's Heritage*

Timothy was a fortunate young man. He grew up in a home where God's Word was revered and read diligently. His great usefulness in the church as an associate of the Apostle Paul may be attributed to the fact that he was trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Of him Paul said: "From a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2nd Tim.3: 15).

As a result of the enriching experiences of Bible study Timothy inherited a great faith which merited the enthusiastic praise of the Apostle: "Having been reminded of the unfeigned faith that is in thee; which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice, and, I am persuaded, is in thee also." (2nd Tim. 1: 5).

Are we as parents depriving our children of the great heritage of faith? Are we withholding from them the great character building principles revealed to us in Christ? Resolve to attend Bible study each Sunday morning!!

## DANGER Continued

tually reported among us that our religious interest ought to be stretched to include: Transportation; Communications; Light and power; Pollution of the atmosphere; Garbage disposal; Allegedly brutal, corrupt, and incompetent police; Housing; and Ethnic divisions; (Mission, May 1968) and some among the saints have accepted this indecent proposal.

In contrast to the miserable record of sectarian groups, the church of the Lord has grown faster than any other religious group in America. Why? Well, the answer is easy. It is because we have remained loyal to the gospel of Jesus and have loudly proclaimed, in the streets and from the mountain tops, the grace of God which bringeth salvation. Whether or not this pleases men, be sure that it pleases God and those who wish to serve God "Come to the cross, the world may frown; Yet you shall wear a glorious crown."

"Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables."

H.A. "Buster" Dobbs

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## *News*

There will be a five night gospel meeting at the 160 West church of Christ in West Plains, Missouri, November the 18, 22, N.E. Honeycutt will be the speaker.

There will be a gospel meeting at the Curry Street church of Christ, West Plains, Missouri November the 4,-10. Pat Casey will be the speaker.

# Taproot Of Tragedy

The burial detail at Bataan found this poem on a 19 year old lad from Indiana who lost his life in a bloody battle:

"And if our lines should sag and break, because of things you failed to make-- that extra tank, that ship, that plane for which we waited all in vain; will you then come to take the balme? For we, not you, must pay the cost of battles you, not we, have lost."

This is a burning indictment of industrial absenteeism--and how right was that lad. Bataan and many lives were lost for failure on the home front.

But we are concerned with the army of the Lord. Round about us millions die without hope because we do not furnish the means of their salvation.

We haphazardly study God's word; we miss Bible study and worship; we half heartedly work at our jobs; we give too little; our vision is limited; and this neglect, this absenteeism, this idleness becomes a dark blot on the church. It is the taproot to almost every weakness and failure.

The "world at its worst needs the church at its best. Let's do our part in making this church one of the best and most faithful.

----Eldred Stevens

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## What Baptism Requires

James E. Henley

Most all if not all Denominations administer some type of Baptism to members or prospective members of their Denomination.

Some use Sprinkling, some Pour a little water on the candidate, and some practice Emersion. Since the Bible mentions only ONE BAPTISM in Eph. 4: 5 It stand to reason that at least two of these practices cannot be acceptable to God. So then let

us take our Bibles and see what baptism requires.

Water: Matt. 3: 11 "I indeed baptize you with water:" Sprinkling requires water.

Much Water: John 3:23 "And John was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there." (Much water) is not necessary for sprinkling.

Going to water:

Acts 8:36 "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water, and the Eunch said, see here is water; what doeth hinder me to be baptized? ( In sprinkling they usally bring the water--don't go to it.

Going into Water:

Acts 8:38 "And he commanded the Chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water both Philip and the Eunch; and he baptized him." (In sprinkling they do not go down" into the water)

A Burial:

Col. 2: 12 "Buried with him in baptism," (In sprinkling there is no burial)

Since baptism is a burial, it requires

A RAISING :

Rom: 6 : 4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father even so we should also walk in newness of life (no being rasied where sprinkling is practiced)

A COMING UP OUT OF THE WATER :

Acts 8 : 39 "And when they were come up out of the water." (Such is not the case where sprinkling is practiced)

From the above scriptures we can clearly see that Emersion is the ONE baptism mention in Eph. 4:5.

How you been baptized for the remission of your SINS?

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Education commences at the mother's knee, and every word spoken within the hearsay of little children tends towards the formation of character.

A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron.

# How Do We Get Faith?

Reuel Lemmons

Up until recently everyone was agreed that "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." But not any more. Many of us do not realize it, but we are contending for a faith that doesn't come by hearing. Most of us would deny it, but our other affirmations indicate that the faith we are following comes into our hearts through experimentation or from some source other than the Scriptures.

....Trusting a subjective source for faith, one can only present as evidence of it the feelings and experiences that occur. These become, in turn, the source of one's faith. The Bible is rejected, and the faith that comes by hearing no longer exists.

This is also the reason some people do not believe in quoting the Bible. We are developing a preaching fraternity long on experience and short on quotations. It has suddenly become "old-fashioned" to quote the Bible so much. Recently we delivered some lectures on a college campus on the general theme of biblical inspiration. One student was heard to scoff at the "Old fashioned" and "irrelevant" preaching. It was the "same old thing." Brother, what we need to hear is the "same old thing," the Holy Spirit guided the apostles to speak and write. Herein lies a basis for a faith that cannot be shaken, because it comes from hearing the word of God. As long as God is not a liar that faith will stand. A faith that comes subjectively from experience, or from the "situation" is inferior. Situation ethics are a poor substitute for faith.

The teachings of the Bible stand like granite peaks above the shifting sands of human experience. The teachings of the Bible are clearcut and indestructible. There is no ethereal fuzziness about them such as is the case with subjective faith. A faith based on Bible teaching comes from God and not from man.

When one loses his moorings of faith which comes by hearing, he sets sail on a foggy sea whose uncertain waste is without landmarks, and whose heaven is shrouded in philosophical nonsense that there is neither pole star in sight or magnetic homing for his religious compass. He is liable to go anywhere, do anything, or teach anything. The theological floundering that results comes as a natural product of having abandoned "hearing" as the source of faith.

(When more of our editors forget self and the "business" and lay it on the line as Reuel does, whether we may agree with them or not the church will not only stand but grow. J.)

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## News

Brother Clovis Ragsdale preaches at Crossroads on the Second Sunday in each month.

Brother Freeny Saunders visited in Mammoth Spring recently. He is now operating a religious bookstore in Imboden, Arkansas.

Anyone who needs a preacher for Sundays or books of a religious nature would well to get in touch with Brother Saunders. His address is Box 313, Imboden, Arkansas

There will be a singing at the Sitka church of Christ on the fourth Sunday, October 27, at 2 p.m.

There will be three night gospel meeting at the Ward Street church of Christ in Hardy, Arkansas October 25, 26, 27. Brother Jerry E. Jones of Harding College will be the speaker.

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Arkansas 72554

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