

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

June, 1957

WELCOME HILL CHURCH

By Marvin Ed Berry

The Church of Christ began meeting at Welcome Hill in 1923, the leader was Bro. John Blevins, assisted by Bro. Joe Blue.

Through the years many gospel meetings have been held and many people became christians from these meetings.

The following men have held meetings here. Bro. Owen Stroud, Bro. Earl Stalcup, Bro. Hubbard, Bro. Charlie Carin, Bro. John Weaver, Bro. T. H. Sherrill, Bro. Burl Curtis, Bro. Huey Hartsell, Leo Richardson, Bro. W. E. Bingham, Bro. B. G. Hogan, Bro. Harlen Hurd. To these men we owe a debt of gratitude.

Sometimes, only a few families met, with few leaders to do the work, but by their faithfulness the Lord's word was carried on.

We have two services on Sunday, with 4 Bible Classes and preaching both services, also a midweek service with 2 classes.

We have had some young men from Harding College preach for us, one Bro. Clive did a good work for us last year, and we hope to have him back next fall, Bro. Blue preaches two Sundays each month and Bro. Carin one.

Several local young men have preached here they are, Berry Honeycutt, Clovis Ragsdale, Marvin E. Berry, Harold Jackson, Irvin Cowan, Claude Linderman.

Bro. Claude Miller who is now in Washington state is doing a great work there.

The church here sponsored the church at Camp. They have supported two meetings, and given help in other ways.

While Bro. Story was in Italy we sent \$10.00 per month to help in his work.

"The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but to be able to hold your tongue in one language is priceless." —Sidney Smith

NOTICES OF MEETINGS

Dalton, Ark, — July 22 Arthur Blackwell
Hatfield — August 12 Raymond Bailly
Camp — August 7 W. E. Bingham
Sturkie — July 31 Harlin Hurd
Salem — July 21 Harlin Hurd
Burks Chapel — July 22 Charles Coil

Brother Oscar Painter of Penwell, Texas preached at Wheeling on the first Sunday in June. Brother Painter lived in this community when he was a young man.

Brother Perry Blue of Allen, Oklahoma, conducted a five day meeting at Viola during the first week in June. Brother Blue is a native of Fulton County.

Visiting in Fulton County recently was Claude Hall of Houston, Texas. Brother Hall preaches for the Nordling Estates Church of Christ in that city.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Morton Church of Christ \$6.00
Mrs. J. E. Satherland Phoenix, Ariz. 2.00
Bro. Duboise, Thayer, Mo. 1.00
W. C. Woody West Plains, Mo. ... 1.00

A RICH PREACHER—We read one time of a rich preacher, who after twenty-five years, starting as a poor man, retired with a comfortable fortune of \$50,000.00 which was quite a sum back in the "good old days." He acquired this as a result of hard work, industry, economy, conscientious effort, perseverance, and the death of a relative who willed him \$49,990.00 —Selected.

STRENGTH TESTING

Marion Farley Dallas 17, Texas
Many and varied are the methods of testing the strength of the physical body.

Some test theirs by weight lifting, others by swimming, running, jumping etc., these are real tests of human endurance.

Likewise the Lord has tested, and is testing the spiritual strength of those who are to be citizens of that heavenly kingdom.

Abraham's faith was given numerous tests, the first being the call he received to leave the land of his nativity and his kindred and go into a strange land, although being assured of Divine help from Jehovah, for at this time he was about 75 years of age.

The supreme test came when some 40 years later he was called upon to slay the son of his old age, and offer him as a burnt sacrifice to God, but, we see him sustained by the unwavering faith, he so ably manifested through his obedience, as far as God would permit him to go.

The strength of the Christian is tested from day to day throughout life.

To those whose hobby is fishing, a bright, sunshiny Sunday morning, a good boat, a good car, good roads, and reports of fine catches, are too tempting to turn down, even to many who have espoused the name of Christ, resulting many times in "forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," thereby sinning against the command given in (Heb. 10:25.)

Still others take the day to themselves to visit friends or relatives, often in faraway places, or spend the week end, including the Lord's day, just driving for enjoyment.

Then there are those who spend so much of their money for the luxuries of life, they have failed to provide a

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FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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Editors:

Arthur C. Blackwell
Clovis Ragsdale**PRAYER**

There are two essential elements in the Christian living, A sense of obligation and a feeling of dependence. As a child of God we are obligated to study his word the Bible, II Timothy 2:15. And when we study his word that is God talking to us and as children of God we have the right to depend upon him. We also have the great privilege of talking to God through his son, Jesus Christ. We do this by praying. What a promise our God has made to us in (PS. 34:15) The eyes of Jehovah are toward the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry," Also Matt. 7:7.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

The Hebrew writer in Heb. 4:16, says' let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need."

From a study of God's word we can come to realize that there is an acceptable way to pray. "Saying our prayer's" is not necessarily praying, many times I am afraid we make our prayers mere forms of words, cold and lifeless. Such prayers are no more than formalities.

One can draw nigh unto God with his mouth and honor him with his lips, while his heart is far from him.

For our prayers to be acceptable to God we must:

Desire (Rom. 10:1) we must also be in Reverence to him (Matt. 6:9). And Sincere asking in the name of Christ, (John 14:13 14).

Let us study one of the most touching

prayers in the book of God, it is found in Luke 23:32-34.

These precious words fell from our Lord's lips while he was dying on the cross "And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death. And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left, Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

Jesus died praying for his enemies. He practiced in his death what he preached in his life. At the very beginning of our Lord's ministry he taught his disciples to pray for their enemies. "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matt. 5:44.

We know by certain events that Jesus did not mean by this prayer that he wanted God to save these sinners in their sin. But fifty-three days later these sinners are given an opportunity to be saved. Acts 2. The prayer of Jesus is about to be answered.

The apostles and others are come together. For the first time after the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ.

The gospel of Christ is being preached. Peter and the other apostles are preaching to the very one that had betrayed and murdered the son of God.

Peter told them that they had crucified Jesus the son of God, now when they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts, and cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2: 37). Hear the answer; Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost," Acts 2:38.

The prayer of Jesus is answered. The ones who crucified him are told what they must do to be saved. It is hard to imagine a preacher of our day not telling believing sinners the same thing to do to be saved, But very few preachers of our day will just give this simple answer to this simple question. But it is the only correct answer. Obedience

to this will bring salvation. Nothing else under God's sun will save a soul from death.

Fred Casey,
West Plains, Mo.

MY IDEAS

My idea of unity: Everybody agree with me.

My idea of cooperation: Everybody working with me—carrying out my plans.

My idea of visitation: Everybody coming around to see me.

My idea of a fine eldership: The eldership I can control.

My idea of sympathy: Everybody suffering with me.

My idea of a sinner. The man for whom I have a personal dislike.

My idea of a righteous man: The man I like.

My idea of a meek man: The man who yields to me.

My idea of a contentious man. The man who takes issue with me.

My idea of brotherly love: Everybody petting me.

My idea of a wise man: The man who listens to nobody but me.

My idea of great music: Everybody singing my praise.

(Diotrephes) —Selected

WHY?

A little boy sat in the Bible School class one Lord's day morning. He listened as his teacher talked about the importance of the church (the Kingdom of God). She said "IT MUST COME FIRST." The lad was very much impressed, his teacher seemed so sincere.

That night the little boy came back to the evening service. He looked and looked for his teacher, she was not there. He could not understand why, because she had taught him—"the Kingdom of God must come first" . . . This little boy later found out that she was home watching television.

The lad never came back to Bible School classes. The teacher often wondered why. DO YOU? — Copied.

Some church members are like the farmer's pond—dried up in the summer, and frozen up in winter.

MAN IS SAVED BY HIS BELIEF, NOT BY BAPTISM

In answer to a question sent to Mr. Billy Graham, man is saved by his belief, not by baptism, is the way he heads his answer to the question sent him. (The question reads as follows: Nobody in our family has ever been baptized. Now that I have been converted. I want to, but my parents forbid me. What shall I do?) Mr. Graham answers; (As a Christian, you must always obey God rather than man. But God has told in His word that children should obey their parents.) I wonder where Mr. Graham learned in the word of God, that one becomes a christian without baptism. It is an impossibility for anyone to read in the word of God where any were ever recognized as a child of God or a christian in this dispensation of time that was not baptized. Mr. Graham considers the person who wrote the question to him a christian without baptism. But the Lord said, Mk. 16:16. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Mr. Graham says he that believeth and is not baptized is saved also. (He says, you must always obey God rather than man. But God has told in his word that children should obey their parents.) Now note you must obey God rather than man, would that include the parents as well as anyone else? If not why not? I wonder why Mr. Graham did not refer this person to the statement our Lord made in Matt 10:35-38 where the Lord said: For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. And he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me. No one knows the reason why he did not refer this person to this statement better than Mr. Graham. For this passage says he, that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. He also knows the Lord said in Jno. 14:15. If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments. Baptism is one of the Lord's commandments

but, Mr. Graham tells this person to keep what the parents says instead of doing what the Lord said. The Lord said he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Mk. 16:16.

Mr. Graham is also wrong in what he had to say about children obeying their parents. He left out the qualifying statement. Now take your Bible and turn to Eph. 6:1 and read. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Obedience to the children to the parents is in the Lord. Well how did the parents get in the Lord? Paul, will you answer that question for us? Yes, know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Rom. 6:3-4. Paul again answers in Gal. 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. How many Paul did you say had put on Christ? I said as many as no more nor less. No wonder Mr. Graham left out the last part of Eph. 6:1, for it shows the location of the parents. I believe God had something to say about the person who takes from what has been revealed in his word. Rev. 22:18-19, 2 Jno. 9-11. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the son. The only one that has Christ is the one who abideth in the doctrine or teaching of Christ. Mr. Graham says you don't have to do what the doctrine says for you to do to have salvation.

Again Mr. Graham says, (The Lord knows your heart and your desire, and your desire to acknowledge Him in baptism is accepted when there are conditions that make the act impossible. The full responsibility is upon your parents in this matter.) It would be good for Mr. Graham to give us the passage that states where God has promised salvation outside of Christ. That he must do before such a statement as that can be accepted as being in harmony with the word of God. Now note he says. (The full responsibility is upon your parents in this matter.) Paul

what do you have to say about the matter? For it is written, as I live saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to God. So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God. Rom. 14:11-12. Obedience to our Lord my friends is an individual matter. I will have to give an account of my own sins. My parents can't answer for me, nor I for them, and to let my parents come between me and Christ is to love them more than my Lord. Christ said he that does so is not worthy of him. Matt. 10:36.

A. C. Blackwell

BUILDING CHARACTER

Oh, did you know the little thoughts
That flutter through your mind
Are always either good and pure
Or selfish and unkind?

And did you know that what you think
And what you say today
Will make you what you are to be,
Because you grow that way?

Your life is built just like a house:
The things you think and do
Are like the bricks the builders use,
For they are building you.

The bricks that crumble, none would
want
To build into a wall,
Because when the winds began to blow
The house would quickly fall.

And so, to build your character
And build it strong and sure,
Use pleasant words, do kindly deeds
And let your thoughts be pure.

—Gospel Herald

HOW COULD I DARE

How could I dare, that day,
If I might share
A brother's load along the dusty way,
And I should turn and walk alone
When in the evening watch I kneel
to pray,
To ask for help to bear my pain and
loss.
If I had heeded not my brother's
cross? —From "Open Windows."

STRENGTH from front page

suitable amount to "lay by in store" for the Lord's day contribution, having never 'purposed in their hearts' concerning the Lord's work.

There isn't a single phase of the Lord's work to be done in a haphazard manner, and when we give aimlessly, of whatever is 'left', we disobey the commands as given by the apostle Paul, for he said to "purpose in the heart," what we are going to give, then to give it "willingly", and further, to give "as we have been prospered," and it is to be done "on the first day of the week."

These are only a few of the ways followers of the Lord fail to manifest their strength to those who are watching their lives, showing conclusively that they have not done the command of Paul which says, "be strong in the Lord."

A "crown of life" has been promised, only to the ones who "endure to the end."

A runner keeps his eye constantly on the goal, he hasn't time to 'look back,' or tarry on the road or track.

The Christian is a 'runner,' running the Christian race, and has neither time nor place to 'look back' for in comparison to the span of life and eternity, his running time is so much shorter than that of the athlete's it behooves him to make use of each moment, lest in the end his running be in vain.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:1-2).

After Chief Rain-In-The-Face had listened to a somewhat boisterous preacher deliver a sermon, someone asked him what he thought of it. "uh," he replied, "big wind, much thunder, no rain." The ends of some sermons, like covers of some books, are too far apart. —Selected

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESSURECTION

During the month of May the people of this Nation observed a day in memory of the young men killed in war and of loved ones who have passed on. The placing of flowers on the graves of those who were near and dear unto us is a commendable act on the part of any one. It shows love and devotion to the memory of that person. As we pause in memory of our loved ones our thoughts naturally go back to the days when they were with us in this life. We never think of death but that we also ponder the possibilities of the coming forth from the grave, for few there are who think of the grave as the end of man. The resurrection thus becomes the greatest consolation to man that we have. Do we understand how this came to be?

When the Jews were successful in condemning the Savior to death and in securing the guard over his grave, they thought that this would be the end of their torment. When the power of God raised him from the dead, the Jews gave as an excuse that he had been stolen away by his followers, but this was not the message that the angels gave to the women who came to his grave early on the first day of the week. Their message was. He is not here, he is risen, Matt. 28:6, Luke 24, 6. This message has become the hope of all men for the ages to come. For finally death had been conquered and the grave had been defeated. This prompted the apostle Paul, in I Cor. 15:55-58 to give forth the statement, O death where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin! and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. Were it not for the fact that Christ was raised from the dead, we could find no consolation in this life whatsoever. After Christ ascended from this earth at Bethany the Angels made another announcement which we all need to ponder very seriously. Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven, this same Jesus, which is taken up from you

into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

We learn in I Thes. 4:13-18 that those who die in the Lord shall come forth, and with the living shall be caught up together to meet the Lord and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

This could not be possible were it not for the fact that God raised Christ from the grave, This fact is the reason given by Paul in I Cor. 15 for saying is not in vain for those who labor in the Lord.

In pausing in memory of our own dead, let us never forget the grave in a distant town in Palestine which gave up its occupant and became the hope that all graves will someday give up their occupants and let us all prepare ourselves in this life to be ready for that great and important event.

SALVATION AND THE CHURCH

Do you need to be washed? Then you need to be a member of the church, for Christ washed the church. (Eph. 5:23)

Do you need to be sanctified? Then you need to be a member of the church, for Christ sanctified the church. (Eph. 5:26).

Do you need to be cleansed? Then you need to be a member of the church, for Christ cleansed the church. (Eph. 5:26).

Do you need to be nourished? Then you need to be a member of the church, for Christ nourishes the church. (Eph. 5: 29)

Do you need the love of Christ? Then you need to be a member of the church, for Christ loved the church. (Eph. 5:25.)

Do you need the blood of Christ? Then you need to be a member of the church, for Christ gave his blood for the church. (Acts 20:28)

Do you need Christ as your head? Then you need to be a member of the church, for Christ is the head of the church Eph. 1: 22-23.)

Do you need to be saved? Then you need to be a member of the church, for Christ saves the church. (Eph. 5:23)

—Selected