

Fulton County Gospel News

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

Second Class Postage Paid

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Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

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Lectureship At Mammoth Spring

Plans are completed for the Lectureship at Mammoth Spring to be held March 2 through 7. Following is a list of the speakers, the date, and subject.

Mon. Mar. 2, James D. Bales, "Christian Responsibility For Proper Use Of Money"

Tue. Mar. 3, Levern Stewart, "Christian Responsibility Of Parents"

Wed. Mar. 4, Arthur Blackwell, "Christian Responsibility In Attendance"

Thur. Mar. 5, Boyd Morgan, "Christian Responsibility In The Teaching Program Of The Church"

Fri. Mar. 6, Riley Henry, "Can The Lord Depend On You?"

Sat. Mar. 7, Leroy Miller, "Christian Responsibility In Conduct"

The church at Ash Flat, Ark. is planning to remodel the inside of their building.

Bro. Lyndal Anthony preached at Pilot the 3rd Sunday and Sunday night in December.

COMMENTS ABOUT THE PAPER

We enjoy the paper very much. Keep the good work going.

Thanks for the Gospel News.

I received The Fulton County Gospel News that you sent appreciate your doing so, and have certainly enjoyed reading it.

These are but a few. We don't have room to print all the wonderful comments and words of encouragement you have sent. Keep them coming our way, it encourages us to even greater efforts in the future.

The Editors

NEW PREACHER FOR HARDY ARK.

Bro. Bobby Hilburn recently moved to Hardy to work with the church there. He moved from Colo. where he had been for some time. Bro. Hilburn is well acquainted in this area having worked with the church in Salem one time. We welcome him to this area, and pray that his efforts in behalf of the Lord's kingdom may prosper.

CONTRIBUTIONS ACKNOWLEDGED

Ed Harris, Viola, Ark.	\$1.00
Lon McCarty, Viola, Ark.	1.00
Church of Christ, Jeff.	12.00
Mrs. Arch Woods, Salem	2.50
Orbie Robbins, Ash Flat	2.00
A Lady, Williford, Ark.	2.00

We appreciate very much the fine response to the first issue. Your interest and encouragement in furthering the Lord's Cause through this medium is heart-warming. Many new names are being added to the mailing list. We further invite your comments, criticisms, or questions concerning our efforts to preach the gospel through the printed word. Address all communications to: Fulton County Gospel News, P. O. Box 237, Mammoth Spring, Ark.

NEWS ITEMS

Two were baptized and one restored at Jeff, Mo. church during the past month. Bro. Hylton and Bro. Don Smith have preached for the church there on Saturday nights. Bro. Clovis Ragsdale preaches for them on the first Sunday in each month.

The church at Agnos, Ark. announces plans for a meeting in July, beginning the 18th. Bro. Vance Greenway from Paragould, Ark. will do the speaking.

Bro. R. H. Robbins of Ash Flat preaches at Viola on the second Sunday in each month.

Things The Devil Wants To Do

Clovis Ragsdale

From the beginning of man existence on earth a continual struggle has been waged by the spirit of evil as represented by the devil to capture the hearts of men so that they may serve him in his kingdom. Satan was victorious in the Garden of Eden when he persuaded mother Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit. In the hearts of most of the peoples of the earth Satan was able to rule for many centuries to come. Yet the advantage that he seemed to have with capturing the souls of men was to come to an end, when God sent his Son into this world to shed his blood upon the cross and make possible a way of escape from sin. This way of escape was made known to the world on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit, speaking through Peter and the other apostles, revealed how man could obtain remission of his sins. Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." In the closing verse of this chapter we learn that the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

From that time on the devil has labored to keep people out of the church. Why is this so? Simply because in obeying the gospel and becoming a christian we come in contact with the blood of Christ. The blood of Christ is the only thing that can cleanse man from his sin. 1 John 1:7. When man is freed from his sins he is no longer in Satans kingdom.

Another reason he wants to keep people out of the church is that in the church we glorify God. Eph. 3:21, "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus through out all ages, world without end." In the church and the church

See DEVIL on last Page

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Editors—
Clovis Ragsdale
Wesley Hylton

The Case Of Cornelius

Wesley Hylton

By reading the first two verses of Acts 10 we find that Cornelius was a very good man. "He feared God with all his house," He gave much alms to the poor, and prayed to God continually. He was doing the very best he knew to please God. If morality would save, Cornelius certainly would be a prime candidate.

The conversion of Cornelius is set forth, at times, as an example to be followed today. It is said by some that God answered his prayers. Therefore, according to them, praying for salvation is the thing to do. However, to state that he prayed for salvation is a misconception. Until the angel appeared to him, he was doing all that he knew to do, and no doubt felt that nothing else was required. He had never learned of Christ. Possibly he had heard of him, but as far as knowing that his salvation depended on a knowledge of Christ, he was altogether in the dark.

In fact, at that time, Christ had never been preached to the Gentiles as the Saviour of mankind. The conversion of Cornelius is very significant. Many fail to realize that his was a very special case. A close study of Acts 10 and 11 reveals that God chose this occasion to bring the gospel to the gentiles, and to prove to the Jews that such was the case. Peter later explained the matter to his brethren in Jerusalem. In closing he made this remark: "Who was I that I could withstand God." Acts 11:7. The results are mentioned in the next verse. "When they heard this they were silenced, and they glorified God saying, then hath God also to the Gentiles

granted repentance unto life."

Thus the apostles learned God's will regarding the Gentiles. It remained for the apostle Paul to make a concerted effort to bring them the message of salvation: being, of course, guided by the Holy Spirit.

The fact that Cornelius and his household were baptized in the Holy Spirit before baptism (in water, as commanded by Peter) has led many to assume that baptism is not essential to salvation. If we are to judge this case by assumption, we can turn to Acts 10:43 and, from Peter's remarks there, assume that belief in Christ will bring remission of sins. In that passage he said, "To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Who can believe that Cornelius would fail to believe what the messenger of God told him. A messenger that the angel of God had instructed him to send for. No one doubts that Cornelius already believed in God. The messenger was to tell him words whereby he and his house could be saved. Therefore, when Peter mentioned that whosoever believed in Christ had remission of sins, no doubt Cornelius was ready to take him at his word. Going a little further with the assumption, if we are to assume that the above is true, then Cornelius was saved before being baptized in the Holy Spirit. This would do away with the favorite theory of many today. Going a step further, he would also have been saved before Peter commanded him to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Could he have been saved without such obedience? Even the Master became "obedient unto death." He also became the "author of eternal salvation to all those who obey him."

The above line of reasoning is, of course faulty. We cannot possibly please God by working on assumption. The apostle Peter did not intend for them to assume that "faith only" would save. We must keep in mind that he was just as amazed as anyone at the startling events of that memorable day. Peter had previously taught that baptism, preceded by repentance, was for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38. Another significant thought overlooked by some in this passage (Acts 10:43), is found in the fact that remission of sin would be received "through his

name." That could come when they were baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as set forth in the great commission. Matt. 28:19-20. To receive remission of sins "through his name", it must come according to the rules he set up to provide for such. To say that remission comes at the point of belief does away with the necessity of repentance, Christ said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Lk. 13:5.

All of the conditions of salvation are not repeated in every passage that pertains to salvation. Frequently only one condition is mentioned. Since that is the case, are we to assume that no other condition is required. For example: Jesus said, "Except ye repent . . ." Belief is not mentioned. Are we to assume that it isn't essential. In Matt. 10:22 Christ said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven." Faith or repentance isn't mentioned here. Can we please the Lord without either? Heb. 11:6 tells us that, "It is impossible to please God" without faith. Without repentance we perish. Lk. 13:5.

Had Cornelius lived under the law, before the coming of Christ, he, no doubt, would have been accorded a place among God's great of his day. But even though he was devout and very religious such would not avail much under the new dispensation without first being obedient to Christ. He still needed to hear words whereby he could be saved. His position was that of any unbelieving Jew. He needed to know about Christ, and render obedience to His will; thus assuring the salvation that he so evidently was working for.

The Lord made it possible for the person needing salvation (Cornelius) to hear the gospel. The circumstances, in this case, were unusual to say the least. God intended for them to be that way. He had a point to prove.

God's plans included the Gentiles. The Jews need to be convinced of that fact. Hence, the miracles associated with this incident. Peter, under instructions from the Holy Spirit, was going into the home of a man that would in so doing place him in a bad light with his brethren. Therefore, he exercised very good judgment in taking some witnesses with him. When he was called on to explain matters to his brethren in Jerusalem, he had witnesses to confirm the

truth of his statements. As a result, they were convinced.

Considering the attitude of the Jews toward the Gentiles, it isn't difficult to understand why a miracle was necessary. However, when we leave off the miraculous aspects of the case, we find that Cornelius was converted in the same manner as others. He heard the gospel. He believed it and was obedient to the command to be baptized. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mk. 16:16.

If Cornelius was saved without baptism for the remission of sins, we can only conclude that God is a respecter of persons; for, He required others to do just that. Yet, God's word plainly says that He is no respecter of persons. Acts 10:34. Either Cornelius was baptized for the remission of sins, or else, God made it possible for him to be saved differently from others. Who can believe that? Especially in view of the plain statement in Acts 10:34.

Futhermore, we might ask this question; if baptism is not essential, why did Peter command them to submit to it? Did he have the authority to make such demands? Read Matt. 16:18-19; also Matt. 28:19-20. According to these two scriptures Peter was exercising due authority. The Lord had also told Peter and the other apostles in Jno. 20:23, "Whosoever aims ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained unto them." This should forever bind the matter! This positively proves that the apostles had the authority to remit or retain sins. On the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ; Peter, in answer to the question, "Men and brethren what shall we do?" replied "Repent and be baptized every one of you . . . for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38. Thus, he bound baptism for the remission of sins. And Jesus had told them, "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven."

The case of Cornelius is a fitting tribute to the mercy and love of an almighty Creator. It further proves that God's only Son died for all men. He is not willing that any should be lost. But alas, all have not accepted Him. Have YOU?

A Way Of Sure Defeat

Don Smith

All the world is looking for success in one way or another. The Lord's church is no exception. We are looking for success in the greatest work possible to mortal man, the salvation of our own souls and the souls of others. Though we might fail in all else, if we succeed in this, we have done well. Satan is working continually to prevent this, and some of his methods are very subtle.

I am convinced that one of the most effective ways of the Deceiver, is to instill in us a fear of defeat. A great man once said, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." How true! How true! If we become so sure of defeat, or so afraid of making a mistake that we do nothing, we have made the biggest one of all. The Psalmist said, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Or modern-day counterpart is, "You are what you think you are." The man who has accepted defeat as inevitable is whipped before he starts.

We could give a number of Bible examples of this attitude. In Numbers 13 we have the account of twelve spies being sent out to spy out the strength of the land of Canaan before they entered in to possess it. Ten of them were afflicted with the dread disease of "DEFEATISM". So contagious was this malady that it reached epidemic proportions among the ranks of Israel and caused them to defy God, who had said, "I will give you this land." None of those entered into the land, but all died in the forty years of wilderness wanderings.

The Saviour gave a parable of a man who had been intrusted with one talent of his masters possessions. Instead of putting it to use, he buried it in the earth because he was afraid. He was called wicked and an unprofitable servant and was cast into outer darkness.

This same attitude can wreak havoc on the church today. Preachers who are afraid of the power of the gospel will not preach it in its fullness. Instead they become men pleasers preaching a watered down perversion of God's word. When we realize the power of the gospel and are not afraid to preach it AS

IS, then we will see the truth in the statement that, "My word will not return unto me void."

When churches learn to replace "I can't" with "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me" the world will hear the gospel. The truth is, we do just about what we want to do. We need to realize the needs of the world, and that those needs can be met by the gospel, and that it is our responsibility to take that gospel to them. Then we must realize that we can do it if we don't leave God out of it.

When we loose this defeatist attitude and become determined to do the work that is ours; then and only then, will we begin to move consistently forward.

We Live In The Christian Age

Delton Haun

The Bible discusses three great ages. These are the Patriarchal, the Jewish, and Christian ages. Patriarchal means father rule. It refers to the time God spoke to the fathers and they to their children. This age extended from Adam to Moses. A new age began with the giving of the ten commandment law at Sinai. It continued to Christ. The Christian age began in fact on Pentecost when Christ's death, burial and resurrection and terms of the gospel were first publicly announced.

Genesis 1 through Exodus 19 covers the Patriarchal age. Exodus 20 through Acts 1 deals with the Jewish age, He, all the while, was introducing the truths and giving the commandments that were to be preached after His resurrection.

The Old Testament is historical and will build in us greater faith although none of its commandments are directed to us. It is thrilling to read of God's care for His people of that past age and to see how He prepared the way for His Son to come into the world to be given for the sins of man. However, we live in the Christian age. We are to obey the New Testament only. Although we are to believe all of the Bible, we are to obey the New Testament. Its commands are directed to all men of our age till the end of time.

only can man worship God today. No other way has been authorized by God, and to worship him in any other way is rank disobedience to his written word. Further we learn that in the church the gospel is preached. Rom. 1:16 tells us that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth to the Jew first and also to the Greek. The preaching of the gospel is the greatest responsibility that the church has to perform. Eph. 3:10. When Satan can keep the church from fulfilling this solemn responsibility he wins a great victory. He will settle for only part of the truth being taught. In our day when we observe the many different churches and doctrines, we realize that Satan is winning some battles, for Gods word teaches that we are not to be divided. 1 Cor. 1:10. "Now I beseech you, brethern, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." In Gal. 1:8, we are told of the curse of God being placed upon those who would preach any other gospel than that the apostles taught. As if to give further warning the same words are repeated in the following verse.

Finally, Satan wants to keep people out of the church because Christ is the head of the church, and as the head he is to be obeyed. Eph. 5:23, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of church, and he is the savior of the body." Christ as king of his kingdom requires his subjects to be loyal unto his commands. As long as we are loyal unto Christ, there will be no room in our hearts for Satan to dwell. Why not escape the terrible fate that awaits those who serve Satan by repenting, Acts 17:30, confessing faith in Christ, Rom. 10:10, and then complete your obedience by being buried with your Lord in baptism as is commanded in Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, and taught in Rom. 6:3-7, Gal. 3:27, 1 Peter 3:21, and many other passages in the New Testament. The Lord will add you to the church in which you are to live faithfully all your days, then heaven will be your home through all the ceaseless ages to come.

Impossible In Salvation

Orbie Robbins

1. God wants all to be saved, but all are not saved.

2. Impossible for some to be saved, not because God, the church and the Holy Spirit are unwilling but because man is unwilling — II Pet. 3:9 Jno. 5:40.

3. God provided a way of Salvation and it is impossible to be saved without it.

Now let us consider the IMPOSSIBLE IN SALVATION.

1. Impossible to be saved without Christ.

Thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins Mt. 1:21. Again Jesus said not every on that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father in Heaven — Mt. 7:21. He is the author of eternal Salvation unto all them that obey him. — Heb. 5:8-9.

Paul stated in writing to Timothy — Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief. — I Tim. 1:15. Again Peter stated that Salvation is in the name of Christ. — Acts 4:11-12. Salvation is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. — II Tim. 2:10.

Therefore from these statements of truth we can see that it is impossible to be saved without Christ.

2. Since we are saved by Christ it is impossible to be saved without HIS BLOOD.

The writer of the Hebrew letter said without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. — Heb. 9:22. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins. — Heb. 10:4. Only the blood of Christ will save. — Heb. 9:12-14 — I Pet. 1:18-19 — Rom. 5:8-11.

Through his blood we have redemption even the forgiveness of sins. — Eph. 1:7.

But his blood was shed in his death, Jno. 19:34 therefore we must reach his death to contact his blood which cleanses from all unrighteousness. Paul shows how this is done, Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death. — Rom. 6:3-4.

So baptism as an act of obedience

brings us into Christ, into his death where we contact his blood which saved impossible then to be saved without baptism. — Mk. 16:16 — I Pet. 3:21.

3. Impossible to be saved without obedience to the Gospel of Christ.

It is God's power to save to every one that believeth. — Rom. 1:16.

When the Gospel is obeyed we are made free from sin. — Rom. 6:17-18.

Those who obey not the Gospel will appear with the sinner and ungodly — I Pet. 4:17.

The Christ will take vengeance on those who know not God and obey not the gospel. - II Thess. 1:6-9.

How shall we escape if we neglect so great Salvation. — Heb. 2:2-3 — Heb. 5:8-9.

From these scriptures we can see that it is impossible to be saved without obedience to the gospel.

4. Impossible to be saved without being a member of the church of the Lord.

God adds the saved to the church.— Acts 2:47 no unsaved people are added. Christ is the head of the church and saviour of the body. — Eph. 5:23.

The church was purchased with his blood. — Acts 20:28.

Christ only built one church HIS CHURCH. — Mt. 16:18 and Paul states there is one body. — Eph. 4:4. He said that this one body is the church. — Eph. 1:23 — Col. 1:18.

It is impossible for man to be reconciled unto God outside the body which is the church. — Eph. 2:14-16. All Spiritual blessings are in Christ. — Eph. 1:3 and to be in Christ is equal to being in the church.

NEWS ITEMS

Bro. Hylton preached for the church at Agnes on the second Thursday night in January. A good crowd was present, and very good interest manifested. Bro. Don Smith will preach for them the Fourth Thursday night

Bro. Hylton also preached for the church at Jeff on Third Saturday night in January. The church at Jeff is doing fine. They recently had some additions, and very good interest by all concerned.

Bro. Don Smith from Thayer, and Bro. Nathaniel Honeycutt who preaches for the church in Alton, Mo. attended the Lecturaship in January at Freed Harde- man College, Henderson, Tenn. They report an excellent program was arrang- ed, and enjoyed by those present.