

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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YOUTH AND CHRISTIANITY

By Clovis Ragsdale

The age in which we live poses many problems for our christian youth. In no other time since the church was established has there been more worldly attractions than can be found today. These things get the time and the interest of youth and all too often they become more important to them than serving Christ. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also". Matt. 6:21. We cannot put God second in our lives and live pleasing unto him. We learn that our God is a jealous God. Exodus 20:5; Deut. 4:24.

The Bible strictly forbids christians from taking part in many worldly attractions such as drinking, revelling (dancing), and fornication. Gal. 5.

There are many pleasures which are not forbidden provided they are practiced in moderation. We get into trouble with harmless pleasures when we go to extremes. For example, a man may like to fish so well that he is found absent from worship services in order to partake of something which in itself is quite harmless.

Questions are often asked concerning movies, ball games, and the use of tobacco. The picture show is a product of the twentieth century and is frequented by large numbers of people. Most of the problems of movies are the evil practiced portrayed on the screens. Sins of all descriptions are publicized and the thinking of youth is influenced. The lives of those who make movies are noted for divorce and immorality. Young christians should at least pick the better shows and be careful not to let the movies become too important in their lives. Sometimes we may attend movies more time than church. This certainly would take up too much of our time and would be dangerous.

Athletics and ball games are staged primarily for the purpose of building better bodies and to learn good sportsmanship in order to build character. Problems arise when we forget this and go to extremes to win or when we cannot control our emotions. Christians should not overemphasize sports to the point

where they interfere with serving God.

The tobacco habit is one of the most practiced habits ever known to civilization. The Bible does not mention tobacco and it is not the writer's intention to add to the written word. From a common sense standpoint it is far best to leave off this costly habit. If we could estimate the cost of tobacco for the normal lifetime of an individual we would have a figure of between three and four thousand dollars. This amount would have bought two new automobiles, a small farm, a modest home, and would have been enough to have paid for over a dozen mission meetings. Doctors now have concluded that smoking will cause lung cancer in some individuals. These and many other reasons should cause young people to be careful not to take up this useless habit. A large percentage of people who smoke take up the habit in their youth. Almost every adult smoker will advise young people not to take up the habit. Only a few can drop the habit once it has been developed. The discovery of America was a great blessing in many ways but it has made slaves out of millions of people through the use of this humble plant.

The meeting at Alton, Mo. closes August 17. Bro. M. F. McKnight of Hale Center, Texas is the preacher.

Bro. Huey P. Hartsell will conduct a series of gospel meetings at Welcome Hill beginning August 28 and continuing ten days.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PAPER

Sister Jos Brown, Naylor, Mo., \$1; Sister Troy Huett, Elizabeth, \$1; Sister George Huett, Elizabeth, \$1; Bro. Orbie Robbins, Elizabeth, \$1; George Huett, Jr., Elizabeth, \$2; G. H. Southard, \$1; G. W. Tucker, Aguos, \$1; a sister, Mammoth, Spring, \$1.

INDIAN PRAYER

"Grant that I may not criticize my neighbor until I have walked a mile in his moccasins."

—Christian Women

NEWS

Four were baptized in the meeting at Elizabeth held last month. One was a gentleman seventy-five years of age. Bro. Boyd Morgan did the preaching.

Get ready, brethren — here is big news. We have plans afoot for a gospel meeting of the air. Certainly, this is good news and big news. We have contracted time with Radio Station K A L M for ten days the first part of October. One hour per day for ten days. The time will be from one to two P. M. A gospel meeting will be conducted at this time each evening at the Mammoth Spring church of Christ, Bro. L. N. Moody of Main and Oak Street church in Jonesboro, Ark. will do the preaching each evening at Mammoth Spring. The greater portion of the Radio meeting will be taken from this meeting. Some two or three services on the radio will be conducted by Bro. Boyd Morgan of Mammoth Spring. The invitation will be extended over the air to any and all who desire to obey the gospel to get word in to the church that necessary arrangements be made. The entire cost of the radio meeting is \$200. We do not want to leave the impression that this work is done by the Mammoth Spring church alone. This work will be supported by interested brethren throughout this vicinity. There will be no appeal for funds made over the radio. All necessary money will be arranged for. In fact, some has already been turned in and is on deposit in the Peoples Bank of Mammoth Spring. Bro. George Huett, Sr. of Elizabeth has given \$5.00; Bro. George Huett, Jr., of Elizabeth has given \$10.00; and Bro. T. Shelt Taylor of Thayer has given \$5.00. Enough has been promised already to make us know that this is to be a reality, the Lord's willing. Pray for it's success.

One cannot always be a hero, but one can always be a man. —Goeth

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EDITORIAL

Please Read and Note this
Correspondence

July 21, 1955

Dear Mr. Burrow.

I heard your radio program July 17 and understood you to say, quote: "Baptism never has saved anyone and never will."

With your permission I would like to ask two questions. First, did I hear correctly or misunderstand your statement? Second, Would you either on your next program or by mail, explain 1st Peter, chapter 3, verses 20 and 21?

Thank you. I shall be listening.

Mrs. Davine Miller
Mammoth Spring, Ark.
July 23, 1955

My Dear Mrs. Miller,

I was so thrilled to receive your letter. No doubt you are behind me one hundred percent. I certainly appreciate that fact.

I thought for a while when I was reading your letter that you were a Campbellite, but apparantly you are not. Yes, it sure was a relief to my mind to receive a letter like yours, you know, not many of the Campbellites believe like you do.

Honestly, Mrs. Miller, I do believe that you are deaf. That is the first time I ever had a complaint concerning my not preaching loud enough. I know a company that sells some good quality hearing aids if you would care to purchase one. I can give you the address.

So glad you listen to my programs. Keep up the good work.

Very Sincerely yours,
Homer Burrow

Mrs. Davine Miller is a member of the Welcome Hill church of Christ. Mr. Homer Burrow is a member of the Mammoth Spring Missionary Baptist church and a preacher of that denomination.

—And the church of Christ is the one that is accused of being belligerent, dogmatic, and mean.

I have nothing at all against Homer

Burrow as a man, but I do stand opposed to Baptist doctrine. But this kind of treatment is typical of how any earnest seeker for the truth is treated by denominational preachers. For years the church of Christ has been accused of mistreating other churches. Such is just not so. The shoe has been put on the wrong foot. It has been other churches that have consistently mistreated the church of Christ. I have printed this letter to put the shoe on the right foot, so all may see and know.

If I were preaching and someone were to write me a letter requesting if they had heard correctly and that I explain a scripture to them which to them contradicted my teaching, I would hasten to correct either their interpretation or an error I held to, if I was wrong. We still wait for an explanation of I Pet. 3:20-21. When a man says "Baptism never has saved anyone and never will" and the Bible says, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us," somebody is due some explanation.

Claude Miller
Mammoth Spring, Ark.

The Way that is Right and Cannot
be Wrong

Marion Farley — Dallas 17, Texas

There is always a safe and a doubtful side to every question. If someone should hold up a ten dollar bill in each hand and offer you one of them, and at the same time tell you he had every reason to believe that the one in his left hand was counterfeit, but that he could assure you the one in his right hand was genuine, I am sure you would choose the one about which there was no doubt.

Should you be crossing the Atlantic on one of the great steamships of our day, and the pilot were to tell you that he was going to disregard his compass on this trip, even though it had brought him safely to port many times, and said he believed his vast experience as a navigator was all he needed to arrive at the destination without mishap, I can imagine you saying something to him like this: "You may have traveled this ocean many years and had much experience, but just wait until the next trip to try this stunt, and as for as I am concerned, you can try it alone." You no doubt, would prefer the compass which is unfailing, to the possibility of experience going astray.

So it is with matters that have to do with our immediate spiritual welfare. Just suppose that the positions taken by Paine, Voltaire, Gibbons, Ingersoll or any infidels were true, what would we have lost by living a Christian life while on earth and knowing the peace and joy of Christianity. Our lives are happier having such a great cause to live for. Death is easier in the belief of immortality. Separation from loved ones is more tolerable in the hope of eternal life. There is a peace of mind peculiar to and that comes only to the faithful followers of God. Phil. 4:7. "And the peace of God, which passeth understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Acts 4:12. "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Infidelity holds no hope. Christianity holds all hope. All is to gain, and nothing is to be lost. It is the safe course, the good treasure. He who disbelieves faces the possibility of there being a God and should there be is far worse than we who believe. Should there be no God we are as well off as he, and our stay on earth was happier than his.

If the advocates of "salvation by faith only" are right—what have we, who teach and believe obedience must be coupled with faith, to fear when we stand before God. Shall we who believed and obeyed be lost for obeying God. Nay, never! Even if they are safe, so are we for we believe. But if we are right, they are lost.

Those who say sprinkling is baptism will say it is not wrong to immerse. Rom. 6:4 calls baptism a burial. The apostolic church knew nothing of the doctrine of sprinkling for baptism, and certainly did not practice it. Read Acts 8. If immersion is recognized by all as baptism, why take a chance by doing something else?

The theory of the impossibility of apostasy, that a child of God cannot fall, was also unknown to the early church. If they are right, what have we lost by "keeping ourselves unspotted from the world." If they are right we will have to admit that the ones who are responsible for this teaching are smarter than the Holy Spirit for he guided the pen of Paul to write I Cor. 10:12 "Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth, take

heed lest he fall." Again Gal. 1:6, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ, unto another gospel." Gal. 5:4 "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law, ye are fallen from Grace."

Likewise, the teaching that a person can "join the church of their choice" is erroneous and was never advocated or tolerated by the apostles or the New Testament writers, but originated with man. Men, one day, may learn that Christ has a choice. The safe course is to let the Lord add you to his church. His church was the only one known to the early disciples. He said in Mt. 16:18 "Upon this rock I will build MY church." In Eph. 4:4 we read, "There is one body." In Col. 1:18 we learn the body is the church and Paul said in I Cor. 12:20 "But now there are many members, but one body."

Let us be careful to always take the safe side and NEVER the doubtful course. Peter exhorts in II Pet. 1:10 "Wherefore the rather brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure, for if ye do these things ye shall never fall."

JIM BOOKOUT and BAPTISM

—Boyd E. Morgan

Now, before you get to feeling sorry for Mr. Bookout and get the notion that I am taking advantage of him and am mistreating him, let me say that I have in my possession written, **unsolicited** permission from him personally to answer his pamphlet on Baptism. This permission came with the pamphlet in the mail addressed to me. Sometimes people get blinded to facts when they read articles like this. In no wise is this work to be so misconstrued as to appear that unfair advantage is taken of Mr. Bookout.

But poor Jim needs help and needs it bad. What Jim does not like is water baptism. Any position that accepts salvation without baptism is far more favorable to him than obedience to the simple command. In fact, Jim will change positions as circumstances warrant it in order to meet passages of scriptures. Consistency means nothing to him, nor to others, when they resolve to get around God's command to be bap-

tized. Jim opposes water baptism so much that he accuses the apostle Peter of preaching a different gospel, a different doctrine, and different commands to the Jews. Acts 2:38 and to the Gentiles. Acts 10. Since he cannot fail to see the teaching of Peter to the Jews in Acts 2:38 he just leaves that to them and since he doesn't want to obey it himself or see others obey it, he fixes it so this is to the Jews and finds a perverted set of rules which changes the plan for Gentiles. Jim makes a difference God does not. Jesus said: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. Jim doesn't like this. He wants one gospel to the Jews and one to the Gentiles. In fact, if he did not fix it up so that he had TWO gospels, he would be forced to admit the truth that water baptism is a command to every creature and is for the remission of sins. Now Jim knows that the Jews on Pentecost were baptized in order to have their sins remitted and he knows that this baptism is water baptism, but since he just doesn't want to do it himself, he fixes up this doctrine in such a way that to him it becomes the gospel to the Jews (circumcised). Then he fixes himself up another doctrine which he does like and that to him eliminates water baptism and since he (Jim Bookout) is a Gentile and he can pacify himself under this, his perverted gospel, he calls this the gospel to the Gentiles. (uncircumcised). Upon this hinges his entire argumentation. Remove this and his entire house collapses.

Jim is wrong and bad wrong. He is forced in sustaining his erroneous position to make a difference between Jew and Gentile which God did not make. Acts 15:7-9. "Peter rose up, and said unto them, men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bade them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Jim, (even though he speaks much of taking away from the word of God and of adding to it as warned against in Rev. 22:18-19) of necessity must

make a difference in his perverted gospel between Jew and Gentile. He must have the Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit in order to be saved in order to avoid water baptism. He cannot avoid water baptism to the Jews in order to have their sins remitted. So Jim makes a difference between Jews and Gentiles so he can teach and practice a doctrine foreign to God's truth. Jim makes a difference. Remove this difference and his entire scheme collapses. It is not necessary that I take the time to answer each quibble which I certainly can and will do if necessary to convert Jim and those who follow his teaching. It is only necessary to point out this one thing: Jim makes a difference that God does not. Jim cannot deny that he makes a difference between the salvation of the Jews and the salvation of the gentiles. He has committed it to print. He can only retract it while he claims he does not add to not take from he changes Jesus statement by his teaching so it would have to be, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospels to every creature. Preach the gospel of the circumcision to the Jews and preach the gospel of the uncircumcision to the gentiles." This is what Jim Bookout teaches, but it is not what God teaches. God teaches: Rom. 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." What ever the Jews were taught to do for the remission of sins under the new covenant—Jim Bookout must do—I must do—and you must do if we are to be saved. God put no difference between them and us.

When a man makes up his mind he is not going to do what God said do, and when a man determines he is going to find some way around God's commands, it is peculiar what delusions he will accept. II Thess. 2:10-12 "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved, and for this cause God shall send strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Three were baptized at Mammoth Spring during July.

Word has been received from Bro. Hillard Story in Sicily. Bro. Story has gone to Sicily as a missionary of the gospel of our Lord. Churches in Fulton County support Bro. Story \$45 per month. A great portion of the support comes from this vicinity. West Plains church supports him \$100. Our support made it possible for him to go. Here is a portion of his letter:

Dear Boyd,

It was a refreshing pleasure to get your letter and I appreciate the good advice with reference to the small supporting congregations in that area. They sure did "help us over the fence." It is inspiring to know there are Christians of the caliber of men I met that day after leaving you. Talk about zeal, I can't help but wish that attitude pervaded some of the larger congregations across the country.

Palermo is fine. The plight of the masses is not pleasant, but the Italians are a fun loving people. One thing that is pathetic regarding Roman Catholicism and the people is that you can walk the streets every day and see poverty personified in filthy streets, children half clothed and dirty, and men and women who know nothing but hard work and little reward. And as you walk the streets you can raise your eyes above and see electric lights mounted on elaborate mountings and strewn for block after block in a canopy fashion down the streets. These lights are to celebrate some pagan rite or to commemorate some departed saint of the Roman Catholic church. All of this costs tremendously. Who usually pays? the masses. So much electric power is used that Palermo's already inadequate supply of power is weakened to the point that our lights flicker and go dim constantly. Also massive displays of fireworks are used that alight the whole sky over the city, and this in the NAME OF RELIGION. All the while the people are eating little more than bread alone. Also, you very occasionally pass on the streets a small window, barred and set in the side of a building. Within these cases are statues, or busts, lifelike and representing Jesus, Mary or some saint, with candles burning in front. There is usually a crowd around. They

assemble, buy a small candle on sale on the spot, light the candle and pray for special grace. It is kind of a "pray as you pay" plan. Every passerby, if he is a good Catholic, makes the sign of the crucifix. Without a doubt, it is the greatest hoax, or racket, ever perpetrated on the human race in the history of the world. No wonder the Vatican gold reserve is second in size only the United States of America. It would be very easy to become completely cynical toward them, not the people, but the dignitaries of the system.

Pardon me for preaching to you. Say, pal, speaking of preaching, I have tried to recall the points of your lesson at Hatfield the night Alma and I obeyed the gospel. The title was "Rules and Exceptions" and I only remember one point. Some time when you are not busy (joke, preachers are always busy) set down and send me that outline if you bother with outlines any more. Give our greetings to the wife. Will be glad to hear from you at any time.

Love,
Hillard and all

The Thayer church is remodeling their building. They have removed everything from the top of the walls up. The entire overhead structure will be remodeled. The old metal roof will be replaced with new composition roofing and the old metal ceiling will be replaced with celotex. Bro. Joe Pruitt is now in meetings and will enter school this fall and will preach regularly in Tennessee during the time he is in school. Bro. Ira G. Woodward is now preaching for the church in Thayer. During the remodeling, they are meeting in the school house. Bro. Boyd Morgan will take care of the radio work each Lord's day. Listen to this program Sunday mornings at 9 o'clock. 1290 on your dial. Radio Station K A L M.

The work at Camp is progressing. Brethern there are hard at work on the new meeting house. The size of the building has been increased to 20'x40'. This is to permit 10'x20' for classroom work. Foundation is laid. Sub-flooring is down and superstructure is up. Door and window frames are built and by the time this paper

reaches you, no doubt the roof will be on this building. Several congregations have sent in contributions to enable this work to be done. A full report will be made later. Enough funds are in sight to get the building far enough along that it can be met in, but there are no funds for outside wall covering or inside ceiling. All congregations are hereby requested to give consideration to this need and if at all possible to give aid to this cause.

Bro. Boyd Morgan will hold a mission meeting at Camp in September. The time for this meeting to begin will be around Sept. 10. The time will be announced on the radio program. We hope to hold this meeting on our own property.

Bro. Paul C. Keller of Thyatire, Miss. will conduct a gospel meeting at Wheeling beginning Aug. 15 and continuing through Aug. 24. Bro. Keller is a very able preacher and you are cordially invited to attend.

Many people think they are saved because the preacher tells them they are. They relate their experiences to the church and then they are told by the preacher that they are saved. They compare their experiences and if they are alike, they decide that they are saved. What does Paul say about such as that? "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they measuring themselves, by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." II Cor. 10:12. At the judgment bar of God we will not be measured by the way someone else has lived, but we will be measured by the "rule which God hath distributed unto us." II Cor. 10:13.

To reach the port of heaven, we must sometimes sail with the wind and sometimes against it — but we must sail and not drift, not lie at anchor. — Selected Via. Lawrence Light

Baptism is an act of faith which manifests trust in Christ's cleansing blood, for baptism is into the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Rom. 6:2-5.