

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

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THE CHURCH AT MAMMOTH SPRING

During the next seventeen issues of this paper we hope to bring to our readers each month a history of one of the congregations of the church in the county. We hope this will help brethren in the county to get better acquainted with one another and to promote interest in the work of the church here in Fulton county.

The congregation at Mammoth Spring began worshipping across the street from its present location over twenty five years ago. It has enjoyed steady growth and is at present the largest church, in numbers, in the county, having in attendance over two hundred each Lord's day. Many of the ablest evangelists in the brotherhood have conducted meetings at Mammoth, among them: Joe Taylor, C. L. Wilkerson, Ruel Lemmons, G. K. Wallace, E. B. Wallace, Riley Henry, Brother Mason who was killed a short time after holding a meeting at Mammoth, Sterl Watson, L. N. Moody, Leroy Miller, Boyd Morgan, Harlan Hurd, and others whose names we were unable to secure. For the last several years a located preacher has labored with the church. The following men have labored here: Leroy Miller, Burl Curtis, Elmo Hall, Truman House, Boyd Morgan and presently Brother Arthur Blackwell. Serving as Elders at the present time are John Smith, M. C. Ragsdale, and Ira Smith. For several years the church has held a spring lectureship, and a revival meeting in the fall.

The church assembles at ten o'clock for Bible Study, worship services at eleven and preaching services on Sunday evenings, as well and Bible study on Wednesday and Sunday nights. The large number of young people who attend re-

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Mrs. Verlon Smith, Kirkland, Ill.	\$1.00
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Mrs. Arch Wood Salem, Ark.	\$1.00
Mr. and Mrs. J. Lowker Klamath Falls, Oregon	\$1.00
Lloyd Nipps, Rockford, Ill.	\$1.00
Mrs. Bill Sheperd Mammoth Spring Ark.	\$1.00
Bro. Barnett of Salem, Ark.	\$1.00
Mr. Harvey Blue Salem Ark.	\$1.00
A sister in Christ Elizabeth, Ark.	\$1.00
Miss Edith Kirksey Mammoth Springs, Ark.	\$1.00
Miss Lucille Humphry, St. Louis, Mo.	\$1.00
Viola church	\$5.00
G. W. Tucker, Agnos, Ark.	\$1.00
Due to an oversight the Viola church was not credited with its \$5 monthly contribution.	
Morrison Church	\$3.00
Owen Stroud	\$1.00

gularly at Mammoth presents the church with an excellent outlook for continued growth in the future. The church is co-sponsor with Thayer in supporting the radio program heard each Sunday at nine o'clock in the morning. They presently are contributing to the Italian mission work, and the Morrilton Christian Home, as well as local benevolent work. The church has recently purchased a dwelling which is being used as a home for the preacher.

THESE THINGS COMMAND AND TEACH NO. III

Arthur C. Blackwell

Regardless of what we may think Peter said that we were to constantly be reminded of them, lest they be forgotten. Though the man that reminds us of them
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THE CONVERSION OF THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

Clovis Ragsdale

In the eight chapter of Acts we are told of the Conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. This is perhaps the simplest of the many accounts of conversion to be found. For one thing the number of persons in the account is small, there being only two persons mentioned, although it is quite possible that the eunuch had drivers when we consider that he commanded the chariot to stop, but the fact remains that only two persons figured in the acts of his obedience. We have no New Testament examples of any one being saved after the church was established without there being at least one other person present besides the one desiring to render obedience. The idea that one can be saved out in the field by himself or by placing his hand on the radio is not in harmony with the teachings of the New Testament.

The eunuch was a religious man, as we can understand by the fact that he had been up to Jerusalem to worship, no doubt but that he was a Jewish proselyte. That he was very devout can be understood because of the great distance that he had travelled to worship and also by the fact that he studied the scriptures even while traveling. These traits would be good ones for all Christians today to copy.

Another trait about the eunuch that was commendable was that he was willing to be taught. He was humble enough to admit that he did not understand what he was reading and when Phillip explained the passages to him he desired to be in obedience to what Phillip had taught him. This can be gained
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Editors—

Arthur C. Blackwell

Clovis Ragsdale

THE PLANNED LIFE

Marion Farley — Dallas 17, Texas

Jesus in (Matt. 10) told his disciples, whom he called apostles, as he commissioned them to "go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel", to make no provision whatsoever for their journey, and when brought before rulers, to take no thought concerning the answers to be given on those occasions, for it would be given them in that hour what they were to say, for the Father would speak through them, teaching them that planning was unnecessary.

But we today are not to take this as an example to us in every respect, however, there are lessons to be learned which should be helpful to each and every Christian.

Each of us realize that being successful in any field of endeavor, depends in a large measure, to the degree of planning we put forth in that direction.

I believe Jesus taught this in his parable of the 'sower,' he pointed out that the seed that fell by the 'wayside', was devoured by the fowls of the air, that the ones that fell among the 'thorns,' were choked by them, and those that fell on the 'stony ground' soon withered and died, but that that fell into the 'good ground' reproduced abundantly, hence, since all good farmers are familiar with the truth of each of these circumstances, we conclude this farmer planned his field to where a minimum of seed fell into these undesirable places.

But even though it is necessary for us to plan our activities of

life, it is even more necessary that we rely on God for guidance and wisdom in our every undertaking.

A very fine maxim for the Christian is the one that says, "Pray like everything depends on God, and work like everything depends on you," if this was followed consistently in everything we do, I am persuaded fewer would be our failures, and in many more cases God and His Son would be glorified.

While there is absolutely no way to plan for all things in life beforehand, such as temptations, sorrows, disappointments, and even opportunities, to know exactly what we will do in every circumstance, we can be assured of God's help when they do come, if we plan our lives well in advance of such things, serving Him faithfully, and trusting Him implicitly.

On the other hand, if we make our plans to serve Satan, and the lusts of the flesh while we are young and our bodies are full of vigor, and when we are too old to enjoy 'life' at it's best, to give ourselves to God. I greatly fear we have made the wrong 'plans' and will be unacceptable in the day of judgement, and will be forever banished from the presence of God, and the Heavenly Host.

Let us plan a Godly, consecrated life in His service, so we may hear that wonderful welcome, "Enter into the joys of thy Lord."

We could not begin the New Year with a better plan, than one to serve Jehovah better than ever before, and to include Him in ALL of our daily activities, seeking His guidance each and every day.

ACTS OF WORSHIP

W. E. Cowen ————— Moten

All religious people have a form of worship that they observe when they assemble, but all do not observe the same acts of worship. No protestant would join with the Catholics in their worship when they burn incense, count

beads, pray to the virgin Mary, and such like religious practices. The only reason offered is that the Lord did not command such things to be done in his church. And this is true.

Now when the church was established on the day of Pentecost we find that early christians immediately observed and continued in the following acts of worships. "The Apostles doctrine" or teaching "in fellowship" or contribution "in prayers" "singing spiritual songs" and "breaking bread" which is the Lord's supper.

When the Church of Christ assembles today the members observe the same acts of worship as the early church observed, no more no less. Not a single act of worship observed by the Church of Christ is in doubt. All doubts are in regard to acts of worship which the Lord did not command.

Each local congregation of the Church of Christ, with elders and deacons, guided by the word of God manages its own affairs, and is dependent of all outside authority. There is no conference, board of bishops, convention, Missionary board, or any other form of organization formed by uninspired men, to write, make laws, and govern, believes in Christ, and assuming authority that belongs alone to Christ as supreme king and law given to rule his people. In form of government and laws by which ruled the Church of Christ depends upon the Word of God.

Even as Moses is warned of God when he is about to make the tabernacle for "See sayeth he, that thou make all according to the pattern shewed thee in the mount." (Heb. 8:5) God showed Moses "a pattern." He established pattern congregations under the direct guidance of the holy Spirit. The congregation of the Churches of Christ are following today the exact pattern of the first model. Shall Christ rule his subjects by the law the Gospel? Or is it right to ignore the only law given and allow uninspired men, to write

creeds and make laws and govern believers in Christ.

Is the Church the bride of Christ: (1 Cor. 11:2, Rev. 21:2)

Will the wife who loves her husband wear any other name than his name. Yet this is just what many do in regard to the religious names they call themselves, names the Lord never mentioned are gave to the members of his church which is his spiritual bride . (Rev. 21:2)

Jesus said, "Not everyone that sayeth unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven but he that doeth the will of the Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21)

Then is it not better to be governed by the Word of God rather than creeds or laws set up by men? Is it not better to be called by the name of Christians as were the early disciple (Acts 11:26) Then by name not mentioned in God's word. And to be known as a member of the church, the Lord's body? (Eph. 1:23) Rather than a member of some denominational congregation not found in the Bible.

All things pertaining to teaching and practice that can be read and prove from the Word of God has the seal of certainty it is right.

"We ought to obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

DID THEY BELIEVE

Lavern Stewart — West Plain, Mo.

Do you suppose the people spoken of in Acts two believed in the Lord? Does this question sound foolish? Here is the point: In the system of some religious people, repentance comes before faith in Christ. They think because the Jews (People who already believed in God) were told to repent and believe the Gospel, or repent and believe on Him that shall come—that alien sinners are to repent before they can believe in Christ. Now, in this order of repentance before faith

those on Pentecost Day, in Acts two, were never told to believe. If they could not believe before they repented and they were not told to believe after they had repented, did they believe? If they did not believe before they were told to repent and be baptized in the name of Christ for the remission of sins—they were not saved. One could not please God without faith (Heb 11:6) and if one must repent before he can believe, we have God adding these to the church (Acts 2:47) as saved people but not being pleased with them because they had not believed. How foolish! Friends, do you see this point? In Acts sixteen, when a man asked a question exactly like the one in Acts two, he was told to believe on the Lord. In Acts two they were not told to believe AFTER they asked the question. Why were they not told to believe? For the same reason that I would not tell my wife to "Cook my dinner" WHEN IT WAS ALREADY ON THE TABLES! We are taught (II Cor. 7:10) that Godly sorrow works repentance. It is also said (Rom. 2:4) that the goodness of God leads to repentance. But neither of these items that prompt a man to repent could exist until he believes. The record in Acts two says they were pricked in their hearts. The word "pricked" means to "stab" or "pierce thoroughly" and of course this was done by the preaching of God's Word which is sharp as a sword, Heb. 4:12, and Eph. 6:17.

But, there was no sense in the Apostles preaching to the people IF THEY COULD NOT BELIEVE BEFORE THEY REPENTED. They preached to them so they could have faith: faith comes by hearing, Rom. 10:17. After the people believed or as Peter said it "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." they were still not saved. Jesus had said in Luke twenty four that repentance and remission of sins were to be preached

in His name and the apostles are doing that very thing. If these did not already have faith in the Lord when they asked the question, why did they ask it? Did you ever have an infidel to ask you what to do to be saved and to then do exactly what you tell him to do? Would one of these "Faith Only" preachers tell an infidel to "repent" before they try to teach him to believe? If these were to be baptized, surely they had believed when they were told to be baptized. Christ said (Matt. 28:19) to teach and then baptize them. Further, He promised that all who would believe and be baptized would be saved (Mk. 16:16) and these were among those being saved therefore they believed. But, there is no honest way under the sun of getting the command to them to believe BETWEEN THE COMMAND TO REPENT AND THE COMMAND TO BE BAPTIZED.

THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU ROM. 16:16

No 1

Should Christians observe Holy Days such as Easter, Christmas, Good Fridays, and a host of others that could be mentioned?

Countless multitudes believe in and practice these so called Holy Days. But let us see what the Bible says about Holy Days.

But first let us inquire: Are holidays good for man? Before we can answer this question it is necessary for us to decide what kind of holidays. Let me suggest that days such as the fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day, and Labor Day are indeed good for men. They tend to relieve the tensions, and promote better understanding. We can be thankful to our government for proclaiming these days as national holidays. I personally believe the government of the United States is the best political, human, government upon the face of the earth. If I did not believe this I would leave. And I suggest to anybody who does not believe

this that they ought to leave.

Having seen that national holidays are good for men, let us now give attention to Religious holidays (Holy Days) are Religious Holy Days Good for men?

It becomes necessary for us to qualify this question. Some religious feast days (Holy Days) have been most beneficial. The salvation of the Jew's nation hinged upon the proper observance of some. For example the Passover Feast. This feast or Holy Day was a yearly reminder of two great events. Namely, a memorial observed in memory of the time the Jews left Egyptians bondage. And secondly, a promise, in which the Passover lamb was used, promising the coming of the Messiah.

The Passover does not and cannot perform the same function today. It could not be kept in faith today.

Simply because the thing that it typified has been accomplished. To observe this feast today would destroy our faith.

Virtually the same thing can be said of the whole law of Moses with its Holy Days. Paul declares: "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace." (Gal. 5:4)

The Jewish system of worship was largely materialistic. Christians should not drag their worship down to that basis.

Next week we shall study the question, "What Holy Days should Christians Keep?" Should they keep the Holy Day which is commonly Christmas?

Don Flanagan

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hered from verse 36 when he said here is water; what doeth hinder me to be baptized. Remember that question came about because Phillip had been teaching him Jesus, verse 35. If the eunuch thought that baptism was all that was necessary he soon found out that he must first believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God. In verse 37 we read of the eunuch making the

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is doing his duty in doing so, even if we consider him hard on the brethren.

These things were committed unto Timothy to be given to faithful men to teach others also. In these things he tells us how, to be a good minister of Jesus Christ if we remind the brethren of them. 1 Tim. 4:6. Again we are told how to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ by applying these thing in our lives 11 Tim. 2:4. By the term soldier it is meant one that is prepared for battle 2 Tim. 2:4 and that preparations is made when we study his word 2 Tim 2:15, Eph. 6:11-17, 2Pet. 3:15 when this preparation is made one is able to meet all opposition that comes in his way. By doing this he is able to detect that which is in opposition to the truth. Yes he is told to watch in all things 2 Tim. 4:5 to do the work of an evangelist, and make full proof of his ministry.

good confession of his Savior. Many today believe that members of the Church of Christ think and teach that baptism is all that is necessary to salvation. This we emphatically do not. The religious world is in agreement that faith, repentance, and confession of Christ as the son of God are necessary to being saved but a great number insist that baptism is not a part of salvation, many substituting prayer, and because of this error, we spend considerable time teaching and showing by the many Biblical examples of conversions in the early days that baptism is one of necessary things for one to do in order to have his past sins remitted. The eunuch and Phillip went down into the water and Phillip baptized him, they came up out of the water and the eunuch went on his way rejoicing. That is the pattern given by the inspired word of God for sinners wishing to become christians today and by believing, repenting, confessing, and being buried in the waters of baptism we can be sure that we are saved from sin,

In these things he was told to teach, was to appoint men as elders or bishops in the church. The qualifications were given that men must meet before they could be bishops. Before one could serve as a bishops he first had to have the desire for the office, and without this desire he could not serve as such in the office. How often are we to depart from these things, often times the qualifications are forgotten in order to put men in to get the things we want. It is also a mistake when we say well who can fill the qualifications. Do we believe that such qualifications would have been given if it was impossible to have been fulfilled. No one would say that a man could go to heaven when he dies without believing in Jesus Christ with all of his heart. This is a qualification that one must meet in order to be a christian. Nor can man serve in the office of an elder without the desire of the office. These things must be fulfilled in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and also in Tet. 1 or the command is not obeyed. The Lord knew that his government had to have leaders to direct or oversee the work of it here. And men must comply to the given law in order to serve in this capacity. And if we serve as much without meeting these qualifications then we are in violation to the given law. Again these things have been given to men that serve in the office of deacons. If these qualifications are not met then the law has not been obeyed.

Let us think on these things apply them to our lives and when we come to the end of the way we can say as did Paul, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, That we too will receive a crown of righteousness as Paul said he would receive. II Tim. 4: 7-8.

Four things come not back: the spoken word, the sped arrow, the past life, the neglected opportunity.