

FULTON COUNTY

GOSPEL NEWS

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Teen Time

By Pat Suba

"Hey! Look me over - lend me an ear!" Thus goes the cry of today's Teens. "Look at us - see that we're searching for a place in society that we can call home." Flower children? No. Protest marchers? No. Teen Christians, born and reared in the faith, suddenly finding themselves in limbo, seemingly outcast by all, shout: "Look at us, know we are here!"

I have heard preachers, teachers and elders moan about the Teens who suddenly (?) lose interest and fall by the wayside. Moan and groan, ye of little faith, and then look in the mirror and say, "I did it - I drove them away."

How? You shouldn't have asked. Shall we start with the elders? How many classes do you participate in that are designed to better acquaint you with this problem age? Do you, o leader of the flock, know by name every teen in your congregation? Do you know anything of the schools they attend? The teachers in whose classes they sit? Are you aware when they win honors and awards? Do you know what they do for recreation? Are you familiar with individual "hang-ups" and do you assure them of your sympathy and understanding? Are you feeding them so that they will grow to take your place? Are your wives training the girls to replace them?

Listen to me, brethren, if you have no foresight in these matters, we will perish and the condemnation is yours.

Ah, teacher friend of mine, sit not smugly thinking the blame must be at their feet! How can your elders be close to children you discourage from coming. How many of you are teaching 12 - 20's because that is where you want most to be? Do your students feel your love for Them? Can they confide in You? Another thing - do you talk their language? I do not advocate behavior unbecoming an adult, but do you relax and giggle with Them. Occasionally? Are you honest with them? If you have not the ability to stimulate and challenge them to the fullest of their capabilities, are you wise enough to step down? Be aware of them tune them in. Know if they get bands on or have them taken off; be the first to notice new clothes, hair-dos, improved complexions; look at them call them by name; share their ups and downs, enthusiasms and disappointments. Know them well enough to sympathize or admonish as the need may be. And, above all else, look, dress and behave as you expect them to. Be Faithful and diligent in your service. Train your children to be proper examples. Love them, pray for them, laugh with them and cry with them.

And you, Mr. Preacher Man, think not that ye

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The contemplation of sin gives pleasure, the memory of it pain. Before men sin they think of the gain, after they sin they despise the gain and think of the guilt. Remember Judas!

"What mean ye, fellow-citizens, that ye turn every stone to scrape wealth together, and take so little care of your children, to whom you must one day relinquish it all?" (Socrates.)

"When a bee is stinging it is not making honey."

"The correct place for a knocker is on the outside of the door."

"The world is full of cactus--but we don't have to sit on it."

"Many want the Kingdom of God, but don't want it first."

Teen Time Continued

shall escape! Once several years ago, my children went eagerly to services to hear a man proclaimed to be one of the "greats" in the brotherhood. As we sat there, what did we hear but a vitriolic diatribe condemning short-sighted elders and slow-witted members for destroying the church. Later, I went to this "great man" and pleaded with him to take advantage of another opportunity to qualify his statements and impress the children with the majesty of the church. Imagine my hurt when he laughed and said that was my problem, his duty was to expose. Do you truly expect our Teens to love a church they hear you tear apart with qualification? When you see the need for a tongue-lashing, couldn't it be done in adult classes or business meetings? Oh, I know only too well the necessity of rebuke and chastisement - what I am speaking of is bitter destruction of ideals. Please don't misunderstand. I know the difficulties and heartaches in preaching to a people who refuse or neglect to hear. I know the hours of study, the prayers and the tears you have to spend, but as you study and pray, bring to remembrance those precious, tender souls that wait thirstily for you to say the words that will sustain and encourage. You are the one who opens to them the joy of preaching. You have the thrill of baptizing them, marrying them and, sometimes, burying them. Show them.. Show them the glory of the church, the beauty of true dedication and the peace of real Christianity. Talk with them, laugh and play with them. Guide their steps with love. Treat them with dignity that they may reach maturity feeling the strength of your confidence in them.

Now, look them over, lend them an ear. Aren't they beautiful in their youth and vitality? Sometimes misdirected, but struggling to meet life head-on and prove themselves worthy citizens of the kingdom. Let each of us search his own "Maturity" before denouncing their immaturity. We must recognize that in our Teens rests the hope of the church. Will we assist them to greatness or let them make it in spite of us? For some of them have the stamina to succeed. We are the ones to answer for those who "Drop-out" because we were too busy to hear their plea for attention.

The Good News

By Clovis Ragsdale

In life, all too often we are subjected to hearing bad news. Deaths, wars, famines, and various tragedies have always made news. Good news always seems to be scarce. Yet an event took place, almost 2000 years ago, that is good news to each succeeding generation. Paul mentioned it in Romans 1 : 16, where he wrote, "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 Jews first and also to the Greeks."

The word Gospel means good news. It tells of the life, teachings, and events that happened to Jesus Christ. It consists of facts to be made known, of commands to be obeyed, and of promises to be enjoyed. In short, it makes known God's plan for the redemption of lost man. It is the best news that a person will ever know of if we will believe it, obey it, and live according to its teachings.

The Gospel explains what God requires of man and promises the blessings we may expect if we let it become a part of our lives. It is the source of faith, a staff to lean upon in time of trouble and contains the promise that man can be restored to favor in the sight of his Maker.

The Gospel is for all in all ages. It will lift men to a higher plan in this life and to the presence of God in the life to come. Every individual must make the decision for himself as to accepting the gospel. If we refuse to accept this gospel there will come a time when bad news so terrible to contemplate will be announced to all unbelievers. 1 Peter 4 : 17, 18 states, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God : and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

News

Brother Auther Blackwell held our meeting, one was baptized. Viola Church of Christ.

Six have been baptized, and three restored here in Mammoth Spring the last month.

Brother Charles Wilson of Hardy conducted a meeting at Burke's Chapel August the 19th through the 25th.

Beginning the second Monday night in September, there will be a monthly meeting, and evening meal for all preachers and their wives at the Dinner Bell in Thayer, Missouri. Time 6 : 30p. m. For more information write P. O. Box 184, Mammoth Spring, Arkansas

Why Is It?

Why is it that a fellow can stand 100-degree weather at a sporting event, but a little perspiration in church is too much for him?

Why is it that a fellow can't leave sick relatives on Sunday to attend church, but can leave them on Monday to go back to work?

Why is it that the fellow who refuses to discipline himself will expect perfection in others?

Why is it that the fellow who comes in fifteen minutes late will insist on getting out on time?

Why is it that the people who know the least about the Bible feel they know the most about what should be done and preached in the church?

Why is it that some expect to understand the Bible without studying it?

-Selected

Living The Way We Pray

I knelt to pray when day was done
And prayed, "O Lord bless everyone;
Lift from saddened hearts the pain
And let the sick be well again."

And then I woke another day,
And carelessly went on my way,
The whole day long I did not try
To wipe a tear from any eye.

I didn't try to share the load
Of any brother along the road;
I didn't even go to see
The sick man just next door to me.

When once again, the day was done,
I prayed, "O Lord bless everyone."
But as I prayed, into my ear
Came a voice that whispered clear,
"Pause, hypocrite, before you pray,
Whom have you tried to bless today?
God's sweetest blessings always go
By hands that serve Him here below:"

And then I hid my face and cried,
"Forgive me, God, for I have lied.
Let me live but another day,
And I will live the way I pray."
-Selected --

The Great Question

BY JAMES E. HENLEY

In A.D. 33 on the day of Pentecost there was a small group of men in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were waiting for the promise of the Father the Holy Spirit to come, Luke 24 - 49 which was to guide them into all truth. John 16: 13.

In Acts chapter two we see this promise being fulfilled, as these men were filled with the Holy

Ghost and began to speak as the spirit gave them utterance. Peter standing up with the eleven lifted up his voice and reminded the people of the prophesy of Joel and of the words of David concerning Jesus of Nazareth. Acts 2: Then in verse 36 he tells them that God has made this same Jesus both Lord and King, they then realize that he truly was the Savior of the world and said unto Peter and the other Apostles "Men and Brethren what shall we do?" Notice that these people already believed, if not they would not have asked how to obey. Since they were already believers Peter told them to repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of Sins. Acts 2: 38

When the people were told what to do they did it gladly. Acts 2: 41. Then they that gladly received his words were baptized and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. As we search our Bibles we continue to here believers told to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins. So as we look to God's word for the answer to the Great Question of How to become a Christian?? We find Faith Heb. 11: 6 Repentance Acts 2: 38 Confession Acts 8: 37 Baptism for the remission of our sins Acts 2: 38. Then the Lord will add us to the Church. Acts 2: 47.

News

Plans are now being made to start an area wide youth meeting each month, for more details write P. O. Box 184, Mammoth Spring, Arkansas.

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